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Council to help with first time house buy

A MULTI-MILLION pound scheme to help out first-time buyers in Walsall will have a real impact on people's lives, says the borough's regeneration boss.

Around 100 first-time buyers can get help from the Local Lend A Hand scheme.

Walsall Council has invested £2m in a programme being run by Lloyds TSB, with first-time buyers needing to find a deposit of around five per cent.

The authority hopes to invest a total of £5m and help as many as 250 people get on the property ladder.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrews said it would have a real impact on peoples' lives.

Start

"By helping people to buy homes we will be providing a much-needed boost for the borough's housing market," he explained.

Most buyers say the biggest challenge is to raise a deposit for their first home.

Under the scheme, borrowers can buy their home with a deposit less than the 10 per cent required from most mortgage lenders.

Borrowers can select a Walsall property up to a maximum loan of £142,500. The council will provide a cash-backed indemnity of up to 20 per cent. The local authority then earns interest on this amount.

Police car in crash on A5

A POLICE officer and his PCSO colleague were taken to hospital after a crash on a main route in Brownhills.

The police car was involved in a smash with a Ford B-Max along the busy A5 Watling Street.

The officers were taken to hospital and the woman driver of the Ford, who was in her 40s, was unhurt.

It happened near to the Rising Sun pub just after 10.30am Sunday.

West Midlands Police spokesman Deb Edmunds said: "A police officer and PCSO were taken to hospital with minor injuries."

'BEDROOM TAX' TO HIT TENANTS

Report by Tom Mason

MORE than 3,000 Walsall tenants will be affected by changes to housing benefit that could see monthly payments slashed by up to £100.

The introduction of the controversial 'bedroom tax' will see a 14 per cent cut to housing benefit for people who have one empty bedroom and a 25 per cent cut to homes with more than two empty bedrooms. The policy, to be launched in April by the Government, is aimed at freeing up social housing, particularly large family homes, by reducing the number of under-occupied properties.

Any tenant in receipt of housing benefit who has more bedrooms than the Government says they need will lose part of that benefit and it doesn't matter how the 'spare' bedroom is being used. That includes partners who have to sleep apart due to a medical condition and those who keep a bedroom for children who live elsewhere but visit, according to guidelines.

Road uproots plot holders

AN allotment in Walsall is to be reduced in size due to a new road, leaving plot holders with less growing space.

An access route is being created to the Borneo Street site, meaning some gardeners will lose land. It is feared up to eight plots will be affected.

Walsall Council said residents in Borneo Street are unable to use the garages along the road into the allotments, prompting the need for new access. It says 15 allotment plots are being created in nearby Cartbridge Lane as part of a £50,000 scheme.

Lisa Akins, who has an allotment at Borneo Street, said between a quarter and half of plots could be lost and she was against moving to land in Cartbridge Lane due to uncertainty of the quality of the land.

The 47-year-old from Willenhall has a shed and greenhouse in place at her 18 by 50ft plot.

She said: "I have worked for 12 years on that particular plot. I have spent that time getting the soil to its most productive. I am very upset by the council."

Leisure and culture chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "The proposed Cartbridge Lane South plot is centrally located, alongside the main A461 road and would offer good accessibility to residents."

"The new access arrangements would reduce the size of the existing Borneo Street allotment site so we had to find somewhere to replace it to comply with the law relating to allotments."

Blakenall Councillor Pete Smith has released figures showing the number of households affected. He says deprived areas will be hit hardest, with 467 households hit in Leamore-Birchills, Blakenall (450) and Darlaston South (345), while more affluent areas such as Streety (two), Paddock (nine) and Pheasey (17) remain relatively unaffected.

The Democratic Labour councillor said: "I hope that people are aware that this disgracefully unfair tax is a decision of the Coalition Government and not the fault of either Walsall Council or the social landlords, such as Walsall Housing Group (whg)."

The borough's largest landlord whg, currently has 3,557 applicants on the housing register but only 361 properties available, leaving a large housing deficit.

Downsize

Mark Causser, welfare reform technical specialist at whg, said: "We have completed an in-depth analysis of all our homes to determine who will be affected, so we can contact customers to help them plan for the change."

The group has put together a selection of measures to help residents, including an saving scheme that rewards tenants for paying their rent on time and also by providing money mentors.

Some residents have already chosen to downsize their home to avoid the benefit cut. More than 100 people have been helped to move by a Walsall Council initiative last year and this number is expected to rise.

Those aged over 61 will not be affected, nor will anyone who is the tenant of a one-bedroom flat or bedsit.

Artist shares his skills



Fragile beauty - stained glass maker Pete Constable with one of his designs

AN ARTIST who has designed and crafted hundreds of unique stained glass windows over the years is sharing his skills with youngsters.

Pete Constable leads workshops in schools where pupils can help him with designs for his windows.

His beautiful work can be seen on front doors around the region. The 60-year-old began designing and making his own

stained glass windows in 1983 and works from a studio at his home in Chucky. The former art and design teacher works to customers' designs.

Mr Constable, said: "I do things in keeping with the architectural date of the building. I'd like to do more contemporary designs, where I can have a free hand."

See www.pconstainedglass.co.uk for more information or call 07879 234932.

Meeting call after cemetery plan fails

THE developer behind a failed plan for a £3 million cemetery in Walsall wants to hold a meeting with concerned residents before considering an appeal or follow-up application.

Aamer Waheed, boss of Springhill Cemetery Group, wanted to create the Aldridge Road Burial Park.

Planning chiefs at Walsall Council turned down the application due to the risk it would pose to the groundwater level at the site, which has flooded in the past.

They said the application had not properly assessed the presence of grey crested newts, bats and protected species believed to be present.

Decisions

Applicant Mr Waheed said he would like to have a meeting with residents before making decisions on any future plan for the site.

Had the plans been approved, more than 8,000 burial plots would have been created on the 4.3-hectare site. It would also have included a reception building, a 64-space car park and a new access road.

Seven jobs would have been created.

Suky Samra, of campaign group Residents Against Cemetery, said people were "not jumping up and down" yet amid fears there may be a follow-up application or an appeal.

Fire damages flats project

BUILDINGS being converted into flats in Walsall were damaged in a fire.

Severe damage was caused to the roofs of the premises in Short Acre Street.

Firefighters were called at 10.45pm on Saturday and spent 45 minutes tackling the flames. Crews remained at the scene until 1.30am to ensure it was fully out.

No-one was inside at the time and no other properties needed to be evacuated. The cause of the blaze is not known.

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CONTACT US

Got a story to tell or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Walsall:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Catherine Dalton: 01922 444313
catherine.dalton@expressandstar.co.uk
Craig Hughes: 01922 444316
craig.hughes@expressandstar.co.uk
Lisa O'Brien: 01922 444312
lisa.obrien@expressandstar.co.uk
Marion Brennan: 01543 465302
marion.brennan@expressandstar.co.uk

Email your pictures to:
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic: John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431
Email: j.sambrooks@expressandstar.co.uk

Advertising: Samantha Broad
Tel: 01543 465331
E-mail: sam.broad@expressandstar.co.uk

Property: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01543 465337
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring: Jayne La'Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465334
E-mail: j.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

WALSALL
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Queen Street
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WV1 1ES

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Benefits cheat kept quiet about £90k lottery win



Geoffrey McLukie

A LOTTERY winner from Walsall kept quiet about his £90,000 prize and claimed more than £12,000 in benefits, a court heard.

School caretaker Geoffrey McLukie kept the money, with cash he won on horse races, in a savings account.

He started claiming Job Seekers Allowance in May 2008 after he was made redundant from a six-month

job as a mechanic. Evidence came to light and an investigation was launched by the Department for Work and Pensions, Walsall Magistrates Court heard.

It was discovered McLukie, 52, had been overpaid by £12,215.

Mr Nick Baker, prosecuting, told the court: "He claimed Jobseeker's Allowance from 2008. He

said he was unemployed and had capital under the prescribed limit. But evidence was gathered by investigators that he had capital and had failed to declare it."

McLukie, who lives with his mother in Remington Road, Beechdale, was interviewed by the DWP in February 2012. Mr Baker continued: "He said he understood the rules and

that he had over £16,000. He had not considered that to be savings."

McLukie now works 10 hours a week as a school caretaker.

He admitted falsely making a statement to obtain a benefit. He was given a 12-month community order and 150 hours of unpaid work. He must also pay costs of £100.

Budget is decided at stormy meeting

WALSALL'S budget was passed at a heated meeting that saw opposition Labour councillors abstain from a crucial vote.

Labour, currently the largest group on Walsall Council, did not vote against the 2013/14 budget last Thursday but the party did table a number of amendments that were rejected by the borough's ruling Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition. Labour councillors could have derailed the budget and its £13 million worth of cuts.

They argued that voting against the budget would have instantly paralysed the local authority and stopped it spending money on essentials such as taking children into care.

Council leader Mike Bird told the meeting: "I believe it is a fair and democratic budget."

"Over the last few years we have had to cut millions of pounds because of Government cuts. Local government is bearing the brunt of all these central cuts."

He said raising council tax was the right thing to do but warned "worse is yet to come" in relation to cuts.

by Laura Blyth

Several amendments were presented to Cllr Bird who called for the meeting to be halted so the coalition could discuss the proposals.

Labour wanted a series of measures to be funded by £759,000 from reserves and £5,000 to be set aside per ward for area partnerships. They wanted free replacement wheelie bins for older people and asked for the council to agree to a review of its management structure within six months.

Abstained

Cllr Bird said the coalition decided not to support any of the amendments.

In the end, 29 voted for the budget, 27 abstained with one councillor voting against, Blakenall's councillor Pete Smith.

He said: "Labour councillors will sit on their hands. They don't have the courage to oppose the cuts and do not have the confidence to put forward their own budget."

Labour councillor Lee Jeavons, Birchills Leamore, said: "If we did not agree on the budget then as a council we could not take on any contracts or we could see people come up from London to sort us out. I can't vote for it but I can't vote against it."

The budget increases council tax by 1.85 per cent and suspends garden waste collections will for three months a year.

WHG on list for national home awards

A HOUSING association in Walsall has been shortlisted for two national awards.

Walsall Housing Group has been named as a finalist in two categories in the UK Housing Awards 2013.

The awards recognise outstanding work by housing organisations to improve the lives of people in their communities and are organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing and Inside Housing magazine.

The housing association is one of six organisations left in the running.

N-ice idea for nursery farewell



Cool idea - retiring nursery nurse Ann Andrews, front, takes a rest from skating sessions on a special ice rink at Rushall Primary School, which was installed as a fun way to celebrate her retirement after 26 years service at the school

A POPULAR nursery nurse enjoyed a skating session in the playground as a send-off after 26 years of loyal service.

Ann Andrews had her leaving party at Rushall Primary School in Walsall, with pupils getting a chance to have a skate on an ice rink brought in specially for the occasion.

Children at the school had been learning all about ice with their theme of the term being Ice World - and so as a thank you and goodbye party for Mrs Andrews the school hired the rink.

Deputy headteacher Sue Joberns said: "It was just such a special day."

"Ann is famous for her role play with the

children - covering anything from castles to igloos and pirate ships."

"We decided to have an ice rink for the children and we really had a lovely day saying goodbye to her, and in the evening there was a special staff party where we all had a go too."

Build

Mrs Joberns added: "We were all very sad to see her leave but she is following her dream and with her husband they have built their own house up in Yorkshire and will be moving up there."

"The children and all of us are sad to see her go."

MP pleased that law on scrap is to get tough

WALSALL North MP David Winnick has spoken of his delight at seeing a bill to tackle the illegal sale of scrap metal compete its Parliamentary stages.

The Labour MP said the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill would create a "rigorous licensing system".

Amongst other things, it will ban cash transactions for scrap metal and could be in force as early as the end of the month.

Rigorous

Mr Winnick said: "I spoke and supported the measure in the Commons. In my speeches I referred to the anti-social activities involved in scrap metal dealing in parts of my constituency. A good number of residents had written and complained regarding what was happening in their neighbourhood."

"The Bill will bring about a rigorous licensing system. Those trading in scrap metal properly and legitimately certainly have nothing to worry about. Those who do not, will find that matters have changed."

Mr Winnick said the most "sickening" metal related crimes in the Walsall borough had been attacks on churches and war memorials.

Councils told to save more on wages bill

COUNCILS have saved millions of pounds by axing dozens of high earning staff.

But pressure group the TaxPayers' Alliance wants authorities to do more to reduce payroll costs as they search for savings after Government funding cuts.

Figures show that Walsall Council managed to save £1.5m by getting rid of 22 posts where received more than £50,000 a year.

Saved

Wolverhampton saved around £1m after a cull of 13 highest earning staff and Sandwell Council saved around £3m.

Matthew Sinclair, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "Taxpayers are still paying far too much for bloated bureaucracies."

Walsall Council leader Councillor Mike Bird retorted: "The Taxpayer's Alliance needs to stop spouting this stuff."

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Final chance after nearly 200 offences

A PROLIFIC crook who has racked up nearly 200 offences was caught, after a trail of rusty water led police to a stolen boiler in a shed.

Darren Fraser has a convictions list that includes 195 crimes, of which more than 100 are for theft, a judge was told.

The father-of-two pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to a charge of receiving stolen goods.

Supervisors were called to a Walsall Homes property in Bridgewater Close, Walsall Wood, on August 8 last year. They found radiators had been removed and copper piping cut up. It was also discovered that a boiler had been removed from the unoccupied property.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said: "The police arrived at the scene at 1.30pm and were able to follow a trail of rusty water which ended at a shed which this defendant had been using. When they opened it there was the stolen property."

Found

"The defendant was later arrested and told officers he had found the boiler in an alleyway."

"He has a considerable record that includes 195 offences and over 100 are for theft."

Mr Anthony Potter, defending, said: "There are a significant amount of offences but Mr Fraser would consider all of these are in his past. He is trying to distance himself from his previous conduct."

Fraser, of Bloxwich Road, Walsall, was given a two-year-community order. As part of this he will be supervised by the probation service and he is required to take an anger management programme.

Fraser was ordered to carry out 75 hours of unpaid work. While passing sentence Recorder Richard Bond told him: "This is your final chance."

£60m motorway contract for firm

A £12 million-a-year five year contract with the Roadchef motorway services group has been won by Blakemore Wholesale, part of the Willenhall-based A F Blakemore & Son group.

It will serve 37 Roadchef sites at 27 UK motorway service areas.

From next month it will provide confectionery, grocery, chilled foods, tobacco and motor oils to forecourt stores and WH Smith sites. It is worth an estimated £60 million over the course of the contract.

Attacker should never be released, says victim



Jailed - Kevin Pallatina

THE survivor of a frenzied machete attack at the hands of a jealous love rival said he hoped his tormentor would never be released from jail.

Richard Crane, aged 47, spoke of his relief that Kevin Pallatina has been given an indeterminate prison sentence for the attempted murder outside the Anchor pub in Brownhills, where both were regulars.

Judge Robin Onions gave a sentence of imprisonment for public protection, meaning Pallatina may never be released. But he will be eligible for a review of his imprisonment in seven years, after being given a 10-year sentence that is reduced by the fact he has been on remand for three years.

Mr Crane said he believed Pallatina should not be released on the grounds that he could attack someone else in similar circumstances.

"I think he would do it again," he said.

Mr Crane, who cannot remember the attack, added that he was pleased the court case was over and he could now start to rebuild his life.

"It is a relief that it has finally happened. It was traumatic and it still is now," he said. "I am grateful to everyone who has helped me through it."

Mr Crane, who used to work in a cemetery, can now no longer work outdoors, is unable to drive and requires ongoing medical treatment. He lost an eye in the attack.

While the reason for the attack was Pallatina wrongly believing his ex-partner Lorraine Maskell had begun a relationship with Mr Crane, the pair actually did get together two months later.

Detective Constable Julian Moss, from West Midlands CID, said: "Pallatina had a history of controlling and possessive behaviour which ultimately led to the breakdown of this relationship."

"He continued to harass his ex-girlfriend, and as a result a harassment order was served on him, which he breached."

"The attack was vicious and planned."

Ex-lover is jailed for machete murder bid

AS PURNED lover has been jailed indefinitely for attacking his ex-girlfriend's male friend with a machete and leaving him for dead in the snow.

Jealous Kevin Pallatina hit Richard Crane 13 times with the weapon in Brownhills High Street, leaving him for dead, covered in blood and with a smashed eye socket.

Pallatina, aged 45, was given an indeterminate prison sentence on Friday but must serve at least 10 years.

He was jailed almost three years to the day of the frenzied attack in the early hours of February 19, 2010.

Judge Robin Onions told him: "The attack lacked mercy and went on and on and on. You left him for dead."

"All who have seen the photographs have seen the extent of bleeding."

Blood

"Police officers said they had never seen so much blood."

Pallatina, of Bridgewater Close, Walsall Wood, had split up with Lorraine Maskell after a year and believed she and 47-year-old Mr Crane, known as Digger, were forming a romance.

Victim Mr Crane was on the phone to Miss Maskell when attacked.

Pallatina was found guilty of attempted murder by a jury.

Judge Onions, sitting at Shrewsbury Crown Court, said Pallatina was unable to accept his split from Miss Maskell, sending her threatening messages.

He said: "You were completely obsessed with her and completely unable to let her go."

Ernie celebrates 63 years at club



Treasurer Ernie Kempson is given a clock by club president Margaret Fletcher, watching are, centre from left, vice-president Beryl Fletcher, Mrs Beryl Kempson and secretary John Disley

PRIME Minister Clement Attlee was in Number 10 when Ernie Kempson first popped into his local for a pint.

The nation's political landscape has changed a lot since then but his drinking habits remain the same. Sixty-three years later he is still a regular at Essington Working Men's Club in South Staffordshire.

Mr Kempson, aged 83, said: "The only difference now is that I drank shandy the first time because my wife-to-be was a Sunday school teacher and I was trying to impress her parents but I quickly switched to proper beer."

The former miner's loyalty to the club has now been recognised with a presentation of a carriage clock.

Willenhall-born Mr Kempson was first taken to the venue by Herbert and Blanche Painter, whose daughter Beryl was to become his wife the following year.

Friendly

Mr Kempson, who lives in Hill Street, Essington, 400 yards from the club, explained: "They invited me to have a drink at the club in August 1950. It was love at first sight."

"I really enjoyed the friendly, welcoming atmosphere, immediately became a member and will remain one until the day I die."

"I have gone at least four times a week, sometimes seven, ever since. I never tire of the place. The atmosphere is still as good as it was the first time I walked through its doors."

His dedication to the club is mirrored by his wife. They acted as its steward and stewardess for 18 months from 1958. She said: "I do not mind the time he spends down there. It is like a second home for him and I go with him as often as I can. We like the company."

Mr Kempson has just retired as the club treasurer after being on its committee since 1952. He was sports secretary and has organised the Silver Threads group for older members.

NEWS in brief

Free advice event on self-employed

PEOPLE looking to become self-employed will be able to receive free advice in Walsall.

Business advisors from Wolverhampton-based charity Access to Business will be sharing their expertise, along with expert speakers, at St Paul's Church, in Darwall Street, on March 21.

Josie Kelly, business manager at A2B, said: "We are encouraging anyone who is thinking about becoming self-employed or has a business idea they want to explore to come along."

The event will take place from 10am to 2pm.

Toy collector fair at leisure centre

THERE will be an array of toys and memorabilia for sale at the popular Toy and Train Collectors Fair at Oak Park Leisure Centre, Walsall Wood on Sunday.

Organiser Geoff Price said: "If you have unwanted toys bring them along, our traders are always interested to buy."

All tables are fully booked. Doors open from 10.30am to 3pm with admission costing £1.50 for adults, £1.20 for seniors and 60p for children. For further details call (01922) 643385.

Rambler will be walking on Edge
WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Kinver for a nine-mile circular walk on Sunday.

'Gibraltar to the Edge (of oblivion)' is a moderate walk in rolling countryside and pasture leading to Kinver Edge.

Non-members are welcome. Contact the walk leaders for further information on (01922) 683616.

Pub quiz is in aid of Rosie's charity

A CHARITY quiz tomorrow night (Friday) in the function room at the Lazy Hill pub, Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge, is looking for teams of up to six at £2 per head.

All proceeds go to Rosie's Helping Hands charity and there will be bottles of wine for the winning team. There will also be a raffle. To reserve a place contact Karen on (01922) 456398.

RSPCA recruiting

WALSALL RSPCA are holding a coffee morning and recruitment event for volunteers at Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church from 10am to 2pm.



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Missing since 8.10 am 21st February 2013 between Catshill bridge and Clayhanger Bridge on Brownhills Canal Towpath.

Male Yorkshire Terrier Cross, 18 months old, Black/Tan, Microchipped. Wearing a red collar with tagged owners details and a red/black walking harness with multi coloured stars. Marley was off the lead with another dog, the other dog returned to owner but Marley had disappeared.

Last sighting was 10 am on the 21/2/2013 on Brownhills Canal Towpath going towards Tesco's and Silvercourt area.

Sharon Tongue: 07891 980497
Paul Tongue: 07817 840377

NEWS

THE BEST
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RHODES

THOSE bargain-mad Russians are already online, buying and selling what are claimed to be fragments of last week's meteorite. Hang on, comrades. Before parting with your hard-earned roubles, check out my exclusive collection. I have several bits of meteorite, the tail from Halley's Comet, three rings from Saturn (never been used) and the rudder off Noah's Ark.

□□□□□□□□

IAIN Duncan Smith, the Work & Pensions Secretary, says he will force migrants from the EU to wait a full year before they can claim benefits. Home Secretary Theresa May says she will bring in new laws to chuck foreign criminals out of the UK. Reality check, please. The truth is that neither Mr Duncan Smith nor Mrs May, nor any other minister of what we used to call the Crown, can promise any such thing. As they know full well, any laws they pass are subject to EU legislation and the Euro-courts. And if our masters in Brussels and Strasbourg say every new arrival is to be given a free house, the right to vote and a bag of sweets, that's exactly what will happen. Readers sometimes ask me why we have 650 MPs at Westminster. You know, I haven't the faintest idea.

□□□□□□□□

I RECENTLY raised the old question of why, in an age of devolution and rule from Brussels, we still need 650 MPs at Westminster. The answer, from the wilder fringes of the Lib-Dems, is that we don't need 650 but 1,300. The suggestion, to be raised at the Lib-Dem spring conference in the interests of wider access for all, is for the creation of job-sharing MPs, with two job-sharers standing as one candidate in elections. Interesting proposal. Would job-sharing MPs both get the present 80-day holidays or would they get 40 days off each?

□□□□□□□□

STILL going for the title of World's Worst Provider, BT is now two weeks into repairing (or rather failing to repair) the line serving my neighbourhood. I have had a heart-to-heart with the line engineer, tearing his hair out in frustration because the job requires a full cable team but they keep sending just him and his van. In his words, he "simply wants someone in the organisation to take "ownership", which is presumably what we used to call responsibility.

□□□□□□□□

IT IS a fact universally acknowledged that frumpy women of a certain age who have made their name from brilliant writing are always going to have a bit of a downer on slim, gorgeous chicks with cascading curls who marry princes. Hilary Mantel, the novelist, has denounced the Duchess of Cambridge as "plastic and "personality-free." Julie Burchill, the columnist, joins the attack on the woman she calls "poor shiny, smiley Kate." You can't help looking at Messdames Mantel and Burchill and suspecting that if they woke up tomorrow morning looking half as good as Kate they would both be altogether shinier and smilier, and a lot less unkind.

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MONEY talks. That is why a sports hall at Sandhurst military academy, which was once named after the heroic 1914 retreat from Mons, is to be renamed King Hamed Hall in honour of the Bahraini monarch who has endowed the place with millions. I understand the name change has caused some resentful muttering in the ranks, particularly in the Mitsubishi Shopping Village (formerly Aldershot).

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Boss slams 'inaccurate' empty shops figure

WALSALL'S deputy council leader has branded new figures claiming that Walsall has the second highest rate of empty shops as "inaccurate" and "unhelpful".

Figures from the Local Data Company (LDC), revealed last week, placed Walsall second in the league table of the worst-performing large towns, trailing only to Stockport.

Councillor Adrian Andrew challenged researchers to visit the town again to see a "true" picture of what is happening in its centre despite the continued deep recession.

He said Primark, Nando's, Co-op and a potential nine-screen cinema development were all in the pipeline for the town centre.

"It is no good researchers pronouncing on our town from afar once or twice a year," he said. "There are success stories that they really should

come and listen to. What about some congratulations to those businesses still surviving in these challenging times?"

"In a time where we should be encouraging and promoting town centres, reports like this just run them down with no ideas for solutions."

Comparing

"Our own records do not show an increase in vacant units in Walsall town centre, so the LDC figures are inaccurate as well as unhelpful."

"It is still not clear, despite asking, what measures the LDC use, such as which geographical area it uses, so it is a little bit like comparing apples with pears."

He said council figures showed a decrease in vacant units so far this year with no sharp increases over the last few months.

"We would welcome the LDC being open and

transparent about what measures researchers use so that we can compare data accurately."

"Independent businesses are still a strong presence in our town centre, although Walsall has suffered like many other towns with the closure of national retailers. Some of the empty units are active development sites. For those that are not, we constantly work with landlords with a view to bringing these units back into use."

A £100,000 scheme has been set up to encourage businesses with subsidised rent and business rate relief.

Town centre landlord Prem Kharabanda, of Status Associates Ltd, said: "The last couple of years have been very challenging in terms of business. However, 2013 seems to have started well. We have had a number of inquiries for our vacant units."

Plan brings hope of jobs at foundry site

AROUND 270 jobs could be created in Walsall as part of plans for a new manufacturing base on the borough's historic Ductile Wesson site.

The former foundry site closed in 2009, shedding around 150 jobs. That brought an end to almost 200 years of manufacturing at Bull Lane.

But agent Wednesfield Properties Limited has now earmarked the western part of the land for a new industrial building, warehouse, offices and car parking.

Under plans submitted to Walsall Council, an as-yet unnamed company specialising in the manufacture of fasteners and components would move in.

Darlaston South councillor Paul Bott welcomed the scheme. He said: "The site has been vacant for a number of years. It's a prime site for any developer in the Moxley area."

by Lisa O'Brien

He added: "We want this to be a positive planning application which creates jobs in the area."

Fred Gleeson, chairman of the Moxley Regeneration Delivery group, said: "It will transform a derelict piece of land and bring it back into use."

Report

"If it creates local jobs it will be great news for Moxley."

A planning application has been submitted to council bosses and a report to them states: "The proposal will provide a new modern facility, which will revitalise the site and lead on to the rest of the site being developed out, thus creating additional jobs in the area and by bringing a currently vacant brownfield site back into use."

The warehouse and industrial space, along with three-storey offices, would add up to a development of more than 150,000 sq ft.

There would be 215 car parking spaces provided for workers.

Roadworks thieves on camera



These men in high vis jackets are attempting to steal a digger at Broadway North

IT appeared to be a completely innocent scene of two workmen battling against the elements to do their normal day-to-day job.

But this picture, taken by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star, actually caught two suspected thieves in the act.

Police believe the bogus workmen donned fluorescent yellow jackets and stole £3,500 worth of machinery being used for roadworks on Broadway North, Walsall.

They were snapped by a staff photographer while he was out capturing images of snowy scenes.

And when the picture appeared in the paper, it emerged the men were suspected thieves believed to have stolen a hydraulic breaker. The theft happened at around 6am

Funds are set aside for leisure schemes

AROUND £130,000 is being spent on developing plans for two new leisure centres in Walsall.

The money has been set aside by Walsall Council towards preparation work for the rebuilds at Oak Park and Bloxwich. The cash is being spent on design, surveys and planning work as part of ambitious schemes for multi-million pound leisure facilities.

The new-look centres are part of a £14 million vision for leisure in the borough with a funding bid submitted to Sport England.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "We have allocated £130,000 towards the design, surveys and planning work for the improvements at Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres. As part of this process we have to ensure various reports are carried out for both sites looking at areas such as mining and travel plans."

"This is an extremely exciting set of plans that the council is keen to see delivered. Levels of activity are currently low and this will be an investment into Walsall's future to improve health and wellbeing."

Plans for the new Oak Park Leisure Centre include an eight-lane swimming pool and a new floodlit pitch at Walsall Wood.

Doctors in a 999 role

DOCTORS have teamed up with paramedics to respond to emergency calls in a bid to ease pressure on the ambulance service.

The pilot scheme by West Midlands Ambulance Service has seen more people treated at home, reducing cases at A&E departments.

Now, the trial, funded by Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell's Clinical Commissioning Groups, is to be expanded from one car to four, operating seven days a week from 10am to midnight. The teams have responded to 419 calls, treating two thirds at home.

Dr Hassan Saqr, who taking shifts, said: "The trial is very useful and we're seeing a lot of patients. Some, unfortunately, shouldn't have called 999 in the first place, but the majority are able to be treated at home."

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Boss sold cigarettes to boy, 16

THE manager of a shop in Walsall who sold cigarettes to an under-age customer has been handed a court bill of almost £500.

Muhammad Zia-ul-haque, 35, sold cigarettes to a 16-year-old boy during a test purchasing operation at A1 Convenience Store, Stafford Street, Walsall Magistrates Court heard.

Mrs Kerry Munro, prosecuting, said the operation had been carried out by Walsall Council's trading standards at five businesses and only the A1 store failed.

The 16-year-old volunteer bought a packet of 10 cigarettes without being asked to produce proof of age and identity.

Camera

Mrs Munro said the boy was fitted with a covert camera and instructed to say he was 18 if asked his age.

Zia-ul-haque told officers that he had no formal training regarding age-restricted products and had been having trouble with youths being abusive when asked for ID. He said he thought the boy was aged about 19.

Zia-ul-haque had lived at the store but has since moved to West Bromwich Road, Palfrey.

He did not attend the hearing but his absence was excused because he had written to the court admitting to a charge of selling tobacco to a person under the age of 18.

In mitigation, the court heard that the lease on the shop came to an end this month and he had now started working at a chicken factory.

He was fined £73, ordered to pay £390 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

Second chance at nominations

CHILDREN from the borough will be in the spotlight at the annual Walsall Young People Awards which aim to recognise those who give something back to their community.

The inaugural ceremony was held last year hosted by Walsall College. Categories this year include bravery, personal achievement in music, sport, good friends, citizenship, environment and young entrepreneur. The deadline for nominations has been extended to March 22.

Forms can be downloaded at www.mywalsall.org/positive or requested on (01922) 714966. A panel of judges will select winners.

Community order after £10k benefits fraud

A BENEFITS cheat from Bloxwich who swindled more than £10,000 has been handed a community order.

Mother-of-two Kelly Hamilton fraudulently claimed housing and council tax benefits over a period spanning almost five years, Walsall Magistrates Court heard.

The 34-year-old shop worker started claiming benefits in 2004 on the basis that she was a lone parent with two children. Earnings and childcare costs were taken into consideration, the court heard.

Mrs Kerry Munro, prosecuting, said a review into her claims was done in December 2011. She explained: "It was done because she had not reported any changes in income since 2007."

Hamilton, of Glastonbury Way, Bloxwich, filled in forms and provided documents when asked for them.

They showed her circumstances had changed over a period of time but she had not reported changes in her income or that she no longer had to pay childcare costs.

The case was referred to an investigation team and she was interviewed under caution in March 2012. Her claims were reassessed and it came to light that she had fraudulently received £8,660.75 in housing benefit and £2,402.82 in council tax benefit.

Admitted

Hamilton, who had no previous convictions, admitted three charges of failing to notify the relevant authorities of a change in circumstances which would have affected her entitlement between April 2007 and March 2012. The court heard that she had started repaying the council.

Mrs Sheila Hicklin, for Hamilton, said that she worked part-time in a shop and had been asked to work overtime and had accepted. She said that Hamilton had reported the changes in her circumstances to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs department and had assumed it would have notified other relevant authorities, but this was not the case.

She said: "It was not fraudulent from the outset. Why the departments can't speak to each other, I don't know. It's a shame that people like her are brought before the court but it is clearly seen as taking out of the public purse."

Hamilton had since told her employer that she no longer wanted to work additional hours because it caused too much hassle.

Hamilton was handed a six-month community order, with supervision, and ordered to pay £200 towards costs.

Nursing cover bill at Manor rises to £1.1m

AN EXTRA £300,000 was spent on temporary nurses at Walsall Manor Hospital last year compared to the previous 12 months.

More than £1.1 million was used on agency nursing staff between January and December 2012, figures show. This is compared to just over £800,000 in 2011 and comes as health chiefs have dealt with a rise in admissions to the hospital.

This has included a 30 per cent rise in the treatment of patients at the Manor from Staffordshire. This saw an extra 35 people a week between April and December last year.

Reduced A&E opening hours at scandal-hit Stafford Hospital have been attributed to the rise in patients dealt with at the Manor.

Average attendances per month have increased from 442 per month in April to December 2011 to around 592 per month for April to December 2012, an increase of 34 per cent.

Sickness

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act revealed £808,814 was spent between January and December 2011 compared to £1,130,975 last year.

Recent figures showed sickness absence in December was 5.12 per cent, against the monthly target of 3.95 per cent.

But health bosses say tighter controls over spending on temporary workers have been introduced.

Jayne Tunstall, chief operating officer at the NHS trust, said the past year had seen an unprecedented number of admissions forcing the hospital to find additional capacity and staff.

The blaze was confined to the living room, destroying the sofa and other furniture. The occupant was carried outside where firefighters gave first aid. She did not require hospital treatment.

Swimmers in sync with Zoe



Synchronised swimmer Zoe Cooper gives a taster session to eager youngsters at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre

AROUND 20 youngsters made a splash at a synchronised swimming coaching session led by Britain's Got Talent stars Aquabatique.

The four-piece took to the waters at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre to show off the skills which impressed Simon Cowell and his fellow judges on last year's show.

They followed up the display with a

coaching session for children aged seven to 12, which was such a success, South Staffordshire Council said they may look to get the group back in the future.

Keen

All 20 places on the course at the Saredon Road centre were snapped up by youngsters keen to try out the

sport. Sam Osbourne, from South Staffordshire Council, said: "It went down an absolute storm. It was really well received and the feedback we have had has been excellent, the children absolutely loved it."

Aquabatique, who came second on last year's talent show, includes Walsall Synchronised Swimming Club's Zoe Cooper.

NEWS in brief

Opportunities for carers at gallery

CARERS can take a break from their roles with a series of free writing and photography workshops in Walsall.

Delves-based carers James Barker and Dimitris Koutroumpas have organised the workshops, which will take place at the town's New Art Gallery.

Funded by Arts Council England, they will give carers the chance to have a break and try their hand at something they may not have tried before in a friendly environment – and talk to others in the same situation.

Workshops are open to all carers aged 16 and over. Creative writing starts on March 21 and photography on March 14. Each session runs from 11am to 1pm. Call 01922 611465.

Tanning studio is an award winner

A WALSALL tanning salon has won a national award, just two years after being wrecked by a flood.

Bronz Bodz Tanning Studio on Hatherton Road scooped The Most Loved Tanning Salon in the UK 2013, voted by customers.

Thesalon was forced to close for six months in 2011 after burst pipes caused £50,000 worth of damage.

Owner Lisa Rayment will receive the award from the mayor on March 18 at Walsall Town Hall. She said: "It's been a difficult couple of years. After the flood the only thing we had left was a sunbed but now we're starting to get back on our feet."

Market is in aid of church funds

A SPRING market is taking place at a church in Walsall on March 9.

It is taking place at Rushall Parish Church, in Leigh Road, from 11am. Proceeds raised will go to church funds.

Route slip road is closed at weekend

A SLIP road off the Black Country Route will be closed overnight during bridge deck repairs. It takes place on the road leading to Bentley Mill Way between Saturday and Monday. Restrictions are between 8pm and 4am.

Quiz night in aid of football club

WILLENHALL Town FC is holding a quiz night tomorrow night (Friday). It will take place at 7.30pm at Strykers in Shaw Road, Bushbury.

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NEWS

Dancers' delight at competition



Right moves - Bethany Thomas, aged 13, Lewis Roberts, 13, Amy York, 17, and Francesca Kennedy, 13, are dancers at the Walsall Academy of Dance, in Butts Street, who took part in the dance awards in Manchester

YOUNG dancers from across Walsall were pitted against the best in the country after being selected for a national competition.

Dancers from the Walsall Academy of Dance were nominated to compete in the International Theatre Dance Awards in Manchester.

They were selected after impressing judges in their grading exams and were asked to perform ballet, tap, modern and theatre steps. Those from the academy in Butts Street dancing at Manchester were Francesca Kennedy, Lewis Roberts, and Bethany Thomas, all aged 13 and 17 year-old Amy York.

The dancers were each given an opportunity to dance for a bursary towards their further dance education and training.

The youngsters each train up to five times every week at the Walsall Academy of Dance in its Butts Street studios.

£200k needed by service

IT will cost £200,000 to improve children's services in Walsall following a damning Ofsted report, Walsall Council has been told.

A report has revealed that the figure is required to manage services effectively.

An improvement notice was served on the council by the Government after Ofsted branded the local authority's safeguarding service, and its capacity to improve, as "inadequate". According to a new report by children's services boss Rose Collinson, services have since been reviewed, action plans discussed with senior managers and organisations have been drafted in to help provide support.

But the report also reveals more cash should be pumped into the service to help it hit standards.

Members of the children and young people's scrutiny panel have also begun a programme of visits to children's services to meet with youngsters and staff.

Briefings

Staff briefings also take place every six weeks to ensure key messages are communicated.

Ofsted inspectors carried out a two-week inspection last June. A report revealed that out of a total of 22 judgment areas, eight areas of practice were found to be inadequate.

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NEWS

MP spots a chance to revive mast challenge

Poetic pupils praised



Mayor of Walsall Councillor Dennis Anson is seen with poetic pupils Holly Brazier, aged 10, Kai Edwards, 10, Sophie Burgess-Moore, six, Sarah Hopkinson, eight, James Coates, 11, and Holly Langston, nine

CREATIVE writers at a Walsall school put their pens to paper for the borough-wide Mayor's Poetry Competition.

Mayor Councillor Dennis Anson helped to organise the writing challenge which aimed to build on the legacy of the Olympics with the theme of 'stars'.

Youngsters from St Michael's School in Pelsall were among those to showcase their creative talents and provided three winners, Holly Brazier, James Coates and Holly Langston. Also commended when the mayor visited the school were Sarah Hopkinson, Sophie Burgess-Moore and Kai Edwards.

A FRESH challenge could be made against a controversial phone mast which has been allowed to remain in Pheasey despite the objections of hundreds of residents.

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz is pursuing action to get the Court of Appeal to reopen the case into the 45ft mast in Waverley Road. She said that under civil procedures rules, there is an opportunity for fresh hearings if there has been an injustice or the circumstances are exceptional.

A landmark case was brought to court by Walsall Council earlier this month in a bid to get a full appeal at the High Court. But it was rejected by a judge.

More than 300 residents signed a petition in opposition to the 02 and Vodafone mast. Council chiefs criticised the decision not to allow an appeal as "morally reprehensible."

Petition

Ms Vaz said: "The Court of Appeal did not address provisions of rule 52.17 of the Civil Procedure Rules which allow the Court of Appeal to reopen the final determination of an appeal in situations where doing so is necessary to avoid real injustice; the circumstances are exceptional; and there is no alternative effective remedy."

"In my view, significant injustices have taken place in the construction of the phone mast."

The mast was put up 18 months ago and the authority then sought to take enforcement action because planning permission had been refused.



Action - Valerie Vaz MP

Phone bosses said they had not received the notice of refusal and pushed ahead citing "permitted development".

The council said the decision for the mast, at the junction of Beacon Road, was posted on its website and sent to Vodafone 11 days before the 56-day deadline for a planning decision.

The operator insisted it needed to improve coverage.

A judge refused permission for a judicial review last May but council chiefs have refused to give up, leading to the hearing this month.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall's regeneration boss, said no-one in the area wanted it and claimed they had been "ridden roughshod over."

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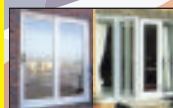
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LETTERS

Parents set bad example

PART of the school curriculum is to deter anti-social behaviour by seeking to teach pupils how to work together, think of others and take responsibility for their actions.

I suggest many schools don't have to look much further than their own school gates for a practical example of people acting in a purely selfish way without any thought for the safety of others. I refer of course to the school run and the selfishness, ignorance and thoughtlessness many parents exhibit when dropping off and picking up their loved ones at school.

They park where they want so their child doesn't have to walk. They give no thought for the inconvenience they cause or danger they may place other pedestrians or drivers in with their disgusting parking.

It makes you wonder what sort of other fine examples of ignorance, thoughtlessness and selfishness they pass onto their children

ROY SHEWARD
 Redhouse lane
 Aldridge

LETTERS to the Editor

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Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle
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E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Horsemeat just tip of an iceberg

THE current horsemeat scandal is only the tip of the iceberg. Most of the meat in our supermarkets gives us no information about the welfare of the animals.

Of course the higher welfare products carry labels like 'free range' or 'organic', but other products offer little or no information on how the animals lived and died.

This means that the pork could come from pigs who've had their tails docked without anaesthetic, lived their lives in barren pens or on slippery slatted floors and never been given a comfy straw area to sleep on.

The average chicken could be one of the 27 per cent that DEFRA estimate go lame before they get to slaughter. That's an awful lot of birds in pain, around 200 million a year.

I think it's high time that we were given a window into the lives of the animals we eat.

I'm supporting Compassion in World Farming's campaign to get compulsory labelling of all animal products, so we can know how and where those animals were reared, how long they were transported for and how they were killed.

MRS D HARBACH
 Walsall Wood
 Walsall

Mansion tax is only fair

ED MILIBAND is right to demand a vote in the House of Commons on a tax on mansions.

With the economy struggling, wages frozen and millions of people unemployed, everyone should be doing their bit to help Britain's economy recover.

The money would be used to re-introduce the 10p tax rate for lower paid workers –

helping them out in difficult times. This is right – everyone should be paying their fair share.

I hope readers will write to their MP and ask them to vote in favour of the mansion tax.

PETER CONSTABLE
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NEWS

MP concerned as cost of weekly shopping soars

Swing when you're winning



THE cost of the weekly shop has soared by more than 21 per cent in four years, – five times the rate of inflation.

The Chronicle's sister newspaper The Express & Star has compared the price of typical goods people buy in Sainsbury's and Tesco today with the same items in 2009.

And it has been highlighted by Walsall North MP David Winnick as showing how living standards have been "undermined".

This comes after warnings that prices will go up even more as supermarkets try to recover from the horse meat scandal by guaranteeing the quality of products.

Quantity

The survey found that some goods had only got cheaper because manufacturers have reduced the quantity.

A basket of goods, containing cereal, baked beans, bread, apples, cheese, milk, eggs, butter and a few treats like biscuits, chocolate and fizzy drinks, along with fuel bought from supermarket petrol stations, now costs around 21 per cent more. Inflation since 2009 has been around four per cent and is currently 2.7 per cent.

Mr Winnick said: "This illustrates the way in which living standards have been undermined for so many people. Those on lower wages will spend more of their new income on food than those on higher salaries."

The increases have been put down to supermarkets and their suppliers rather than the producers and farmers.

But the increasing demand for biofuels, which takes up land that could be used for crops, is said to be also playing a part.

Tea room planned

FUNDING of £40,000 has been agreed to towards building a tea room at Essington Community Centre.

It is hoped the new facility at the Hobnook Road venue will provide a range of services for residents.

Charlotte Stanton, of Willenhall, is the Golf Volunteer of the Year
A STUDENT from Willenhall has won the Golf Volunteer of the Year Award for her work in helping to promote the sport.

Charlotte Stanton, a former pupil at St Thomas More School, was handed the prize by the England Golf Partnership.

It marked a double celebration for the 20-year-old, who also enjoyed a

trip to St James's Palace in London to pick up her gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Charlotte started playing golf when she was just 11 at Oxley Park in Wolverhampton before moving to Whittington Heath in Lichfield.

She is currently taking golf management studies at Birmingham University.



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NEWS FEATURE

Investment boost for thriving forgemaster

STEEL forgings specialists George Dyke has invested in equipment and management as its operation is built up at its main base in Darlaston.

The firm, which has been forging since about 1830, closed its old plant at its original home in Doctors Piece in Willenhall, at the end of last year.

Staff have now moved to the company's Imperial Works in Heath Road. Plant and equipment is being reinstalled there.

The five-acre site was bought when George Dyke was itself bought by the Dowdeswell Engineering Group in 1980. The management team at George Dyke has been through a complete transformation since 2011 and the is now led by general manager David McTighe.

Sales manager Gary Smith said: "We have invested in the right professionals and that is helping to drive efficiencies through and increase profitability."

Turnover

In the last two years turnover has grown by 36 per cent to just under £6 million in 2012.

"We have also been continually investing in new equipment."

Mr Smith said that exports were continuing to grow particularly in Germany, Holland and Belgium.

"We are currently talking to an old customer in the United States about a contract that could potentially be worth £1.5m to us and would mean us taking on extra workers," he added.

"We have a few irons in the fire and we are having success in winning back old customers that we have dealt with in the past as well as in developing a new customer base," he explained.

Last year George Dyke was also involved in a major project for the United States Navy.

Willenhall-based BE Wedge, part of



Workers are pictured using a press at the George Dyke forge in Darlaston



New team at the top - managers Gary Smith, Dave McTighe and Matt Bissell standing client and forgemaster George Dyke.

Lee Dickens, sales manager of BE Wedge, in Stafford Street, said: "For the US Navy to have sourced the work all the way here to the West Midlands is a testimony to the quality of work companies in the UK can provide."

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 Auto: Urban 34.0 (8.3), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 43.6 (6.5), CO₂ Emissions 154 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDI: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO₂ Emissions 158 g/km.

NEWS

Shop back after ordeal



Owner Joyce Davis of You Wear It Well, in Leamore, celebrates reopening after a flood forced closure

A BUSINESS in Walsall has opened its doors again after being closed for almost two months when a flood destroyed stock and fittings.

The You Wear It Well lingerie shop, in Leamore, was hit by a sewage flood following a drainage problem at a nearby property over Christmas.

The business specialises in mastectomy wear and was launched by breast cancer survivor Joyce Davis in 2011.

It cost her £7,000 in repairs and replacement items but she also enlisted the help of Walsall Council. Council staff offered her support as she worked to reopen her business.

The 55 year-old said: "It was heart-breaking and the smell was appalling. The stench even made its way on to receipts and papers in the shop. It was disgusting. I have had to replace everything and have been up to my eyes dealing with the insurance and repairs."

The mother-of-three from Bloxwich said: "The shop is so much more than a shop. It offers support for women coping with all stages of treatment and surgery and also provides support for their husbands and partners."

Improving church and its grounds is on agenda

FRESH talks are to be held to discuss how campaigners and Walsall Council can help raise funds to repair the town's oldest church and improve the surrounding area.

St Matthew's has secured a grant of more than £128,000 for roof repairs after metal thefts. A team is being formed to raise £100,000 more needed before work can take place.

Calls have been made for a support group to meet and discuss how funds can be raised for a wider restoration project, which may involve reopening a memorial garden closed decades ago due to vandalism.

The group has councillors, council workers and Walsall South Area Partnership members.

Heritage

St Matthews Councillor Mohammed Arif welcomed the English Heritage grant but said it was time to think about "long-term" restoration plans for the church and its surroundings.

The church planned a £1 million restoration project that was put on hold after metal thieves stripped £40,000 worth of lead from the church roof in September 2011.

by Lisa O'Brien
Cllr Arif said they worked with the church to get gates at the rear to keep out vandals but it might be time to meet and discuss how to attract more funding for improvements.

He would like the memorial garden, closed about 30 years ago due to vandalism, to reopen and be an area which people could enjoy.

Repairs and upgrades needed at the church include plasterwork, windows, the balcony and staircase. Improvements are needed to flooring, chairs, toilets, kitchen facilities, the children's chapel, computer systems and the grounds.

The church was dealt a double blow when the lead theft was followed by copper being stolen from the church community centre roof.

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NEWS

The very model of a major musical society



Swashbuckling fun – Walsall's Gilbert and Sullivan Society rehearsing the latest production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, from left are Adrian Davies-Ratcliffe, aged 49, Steve Groves, 57, Steve Parrish, 26, and Mac Hammond, 67

THEY have been getting together for decades to share a love of Victorian musical theatre – now Walsall's Gilbert and Sullivan Society is celebrating 50 years.

To mark its half-century milestone, the group at the weekend performed two of the Victorian duo's best loved operettas *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Trial by Jury* – first performed by the group when it started in 1963.

The society was formed following a newspaper advert for what was then named the Gilbert and Sullivan Club Walsall and District, in 1962. Those who expressed an interest were sent a

letter telling them the first rehearsal would be at the Butts School on January 2, 1963.

One of the first members was Dylis Bradbury, she said: "At this time I had no idea what I was letting myself in for as I had never heard of Gilbert and Sullivan or their operas."

Rehearsal

"But my father and I and duly arrived at the first rehearsal and the rest, as they say, is history."

Shows were performed at Tynings Lane School in Aldridge before moving to TP Riley School in Bloxwich and later to Darlaston Town Hall in 1967.

The group later moved to Shire Oak School in Brownhills in 1984 and 1989

at Brownhills Comprehensive School, when it changed its name to Walsall Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Last year, the society moved to the Forest Arts Centre in Hawbush Road, Leamore.

Chairman Ken Rhodes said: "It costs about £10,000 to put on a show and people probably don't realise the effort that goes into each one."

"We have to plan around 12 months in advance for each show and members have to commit themselves to many weeks of rehearsals."

"But we obviously all think it's worth it because the buzz that we get from seeing another successful show is tremendous."

To find out more about the society call Doreen Yates on 01543 573818.

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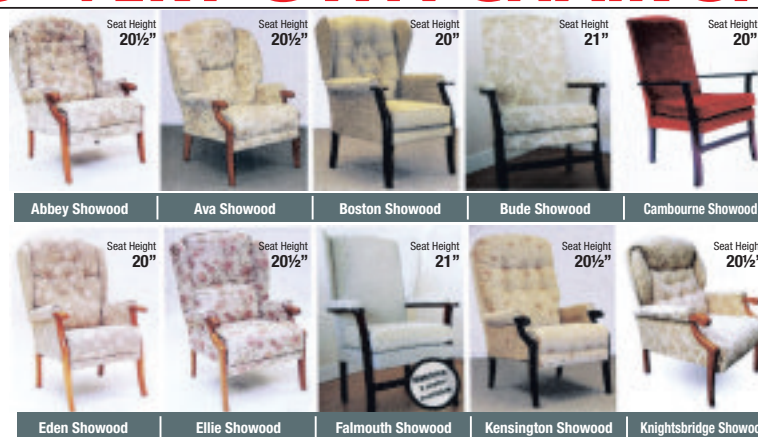
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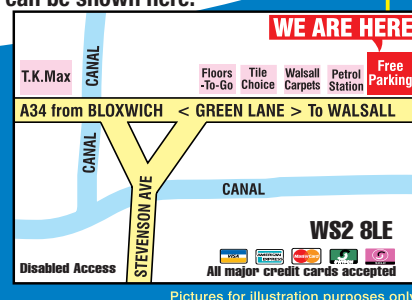
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CLUB NEWS

Hen hire
talk title
puzzles
members

BURNTWOOD WI

IN the absence of president Gwyneth, members were welcomed by vice-chairman Joan Marson, who explained she was celebrating the arrival of her second grandchild Chloe Louise down in Fareham.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by secretary Judith. In matters arising was the imminent quiz night with a fish & chip supper.

The Group Meeting on March 14 is being held at the Memorial Hall and it is Burntwood's turn to host the event. The speaker will be John White talking about being a Regency Butler.

Chicken

Speaker for this evening Claire Peach had members puzzled by the title of her talk, 'Hens for Hire'.

She travels around the Midlands mainly putting chicken coops complete with hens in to schools.

Refreshments followed cakes being provided by Lorna Jones celebrating the birth of granddaughter Evie.

Committee nomination sheets were circulated. Four committee members are standing down but as the Institute has a membership of 130 a full active committee is important.

Social time saw Ron Box do a musical quiz playing the theme music from the big screen. The competition for a knitted hat was won by Judy Griffiths, the evening came to a close with the raffle and Ron's humorous 'Thought for the Month'.

'Gracie Fields' gives
history of music hall



Gracie Fields, alias Lisa Jayne Smith, was the entertainment for the evening

CANNOCK TOWNSWOMEN

MEMBERS enjoyed the guild's 42nd birthday at The Chase Golf Club on January 29.

The Townswomen's Guild was founded in 1929 by two suffragettes who following introduction of votes for women, decided to form a union for women to continue to campaign on behalf of positive social change. The campaign continues today and members lobby and endeavour to influence Government and other departments on important social issues.

Music

Chairman Hilda Hathaway thanked secretary Sue Evans for producing an itinerary for the evening's events.

Val Beale said 'Grace' and Sharon Towers gave the loyal toast.

The Guild toast was given by Gillian Loftus, followed by entertainment from Lisa Jayne Smith. She gave us a history of the 'Old Music Hall' from the 1920s to the 1950s, from the days of Marie Lloyd to Gracie Fields.

She had a wonderful repertoire and range, which included a variety of song and dance routines and sing alongs to keep everyone enthralled and amused. The vote of thanks was given by Pauline Haywood.

The guild meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at St Luke's School, New Penkridge Road, Cannock.

For further information contact 01543 506347.

Quiz staged at last-minute

PRESIDENT Sandy Hobbs welcomed everyone to a very cold February meeting with a special welcome to two visiting ladies.

The planned speaker was unable to attend and Mrs Hobbs worked very hard to prepare a quiz at the last minute.

After refreshments, Mrs Hobbs gave details of forthcoming events.

HAYES GREEN WI

Hayes Green will host the Heathside group meeting in October and trips include Trentham Gardens,

Llandudno, Chatsworth, the annual picnic on the Chase and a skittles evening at the Hen House, Hednes-

ford. June Meecham has entered the county water-colour competition with a picture of a sunny beach.

This month's competition, pearls, was won by Mary and Joan.

Author and historian Tony Hunt will be the speaker on March 6. There will also be a bring and buy sale.

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NEWS

Teen living up to famous name



Beckham Fulton hopes to emulate his namesake

A YOUNG football player is on the way to filling the boots of his namesake and hero.

Named after the world's most famous footballer, 15-year-old Beckham Fulton, from Handsacre near Cannock, has already begun the process of becoming a professional footballer and is now one of Walsall FC's promising young stars.

The talented central midfielder already has a successful track record having first played for Wolves' youth team before transferring to Walsall Academy Under 15 youth team.

His parents named him after the



Footballer David Beckham on the pitch for LA Galaxy

Report by Tom Mason

legend when he was born in 1998, the same year as his namesake's red card during the World Cup match against Argentina. It was also the year he proposed to Spice Girl Victoria Adams and they became 'Posh and Becks'.

The pupil of Hagley Park Academy, Rugeley, said: "I dream to one day be like David Beckham - although I can't quite bend the ball as well as he can yet."

"People are often surprised at first when I tell them my name but most of my mates are used to it by now. I am really happy to be with Walsall Academy."

"I hope to one day play for the likes of my favourite team, Manchester United, but until then I hope to get a scholarship with a club."

Hagley Park PE teacher Stuart Challinor said: "Beckham is an extremely talented young footballer who potentially could go on to achieve great things."

Beckham has already made his mark at the Saddlers, having played 15 matches.

Academy coaching head Graham Biggs said: "He is developing nicely and making big strides as he makes his way up to the under 16s team."

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NEWS

School is 'second home'



Linda Mills with, clockwise from bottom left, Amelia Harrison, aged eight, Tegan Higgins, seven, Emily James, seven, Demi Cattell, eight, and Libby Northall, seven

A TEACHER who dedicated her professional life to one primary school is retiring after almost 40 years. Grandmother-of-three Linda Mills, 58, has been at Leamore Primary School, Bloxwich Road, for 37 years, teaching seven and eight-year-olds. She said: "I'm hoping to spend some more time with my three lovely grandchildren, doing some gardening and taking some time for myself. I'm also planning to take some trips during term time on some cheap holidays."

"I am really sad to leave. It's so hard because this place is like my second home, with me having been here so long."

"I've been here all my school life. One of my fondest memories was being here to celebrate the school being open for 100 years in 1972, when the school had a big party. I was here for the school's 125th party as well. It's funny having been here so long because I'm now teaching children of children I taught years ago."

Boss signs pledge on dignity in care service

WALSALL Council has signed a pledge to adopt the principles of the national Dignity in Care campaign.

The initiative is about individuals and organisations agreeing to show dignity to those receiving care services and to stand up for dignity at every opportunity.

Councillor leader Mike Bird signed Walsall Council's Dignity Pledge on behalf of the local authority in front of council staff, care providers and voluntary organisations at the Forest Arts Centre. He said: "Dignity is something every resident in Walsall deserves."

Supporting

"Anyone, at any age, from any background, could come to need care at some point in their life. We must all who work together to ensure that those who need care are treated with dignity and respect at all times."

He added: "Walsall Council is committed to leading the way and to supporting those who provide

care services to make this happen."

Jan Burns, National Dignity Council chairwoman, attended the event. She said: "We are asking people to put dignity at the heart of everything they do and to sign up to become a dignity champion if they feel strongly about speaking out and making a difference."

A further event is being planned in the spring to bring together Walsall's dignity champions to share how their efforts have improved the services people receive."

by Lisa O'Brien

Homes near park plan

SEVEN family homes may be built near Red House Park in Great Barr under fresh plans unveiled by developers.

Staffordshire-based Cameron Homes Limited has applied to Sandwell Council to build four-bedroom detached houses. The properties are earmarked for land opposite the park, along with at least 21 parking spaces.

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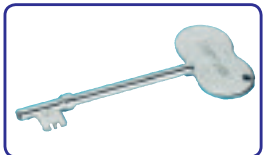
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NEWS

Ellie takes reins at riding school



Ellie Simmonds poses for pictures with some of the riders at the Gartmore Riding School in Hammerwich



Paralympic swimmer Ellie Simmonds on a visit the Gartmore Riding School, Hammerwich, with horse Gypsy and volunteer Tracey Pinfold



Youngsters were giving "taster" riding sessions during the afternoon

PARALYMPIC gold medallist Ellie Simmonds presented rosettes and prizes to youngsters at a Burntwood riding school.

The swimming star from Aldridge visited Gartmore Riding School in Hammerwich to officially open the school's new seating area where children can gather for tutorials and watch other riders.

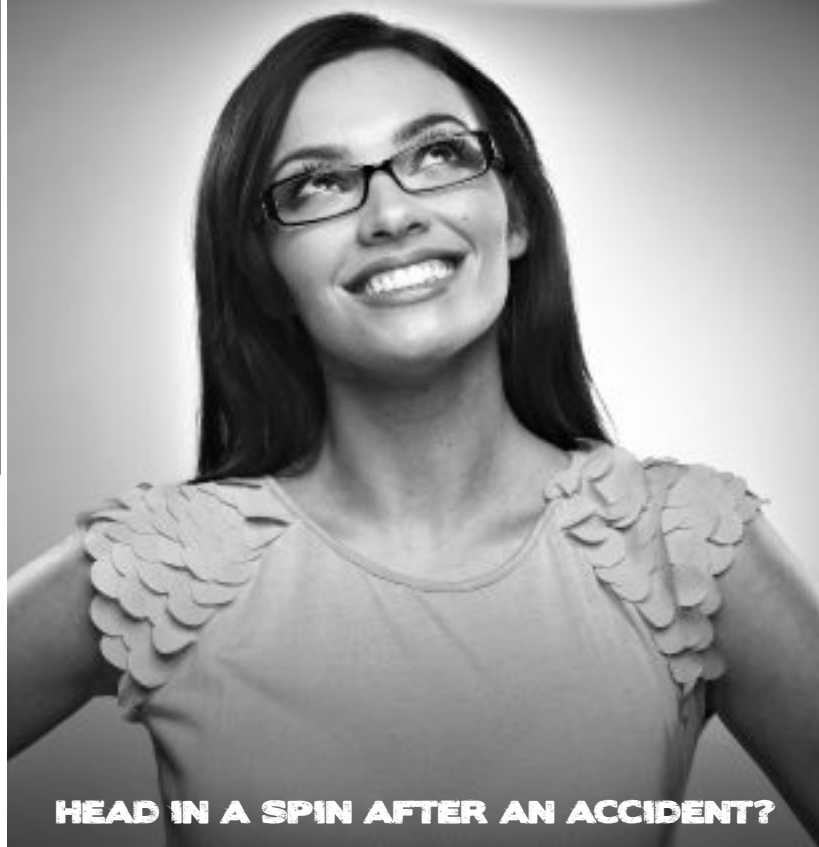
The event was funded by Staffordshire County Council as

part of its Aiming High activities for disabled children and their families. Up to 70 youngsters attended and took part in horse riding, lectures and grooming. They were also given the chance to try out a riding simulator. Among the schools represented were Streetly Academy.

Ellie, 18, said: "It's so wonderful here. I wanted to be a horse rider when I was younger. The scheme here is fantastic - enabling disabled people to learn how to do all these different things is really great."

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NEWS

Second night market is set to be bigger success

MORE than 30 traders from throughout the region have expressed an interest in the returning Walsall night market.

Organisers are anticipating more stalls following the successful launch of the event last autumn. More than 50 stalls were set up in the town centre, with about 1,500 customers attending the initial night market. And there have already been 35 applications for the next one, on March 28, with organisers optimistic of getting more traders than last time.

Interest has come from the Black Country, Birmingham and further afield, with more expected as the date gets nearer.

Entertainment

The event, to be held from 5 to 9pm, is being organised through Walsall Council and Walsall Town Team. More food outlets, a liquor licence and entertainment are being planned for the night market. A free children's craft workshop is also lined up as part of the evening. Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew has backed the return of the event. "It is good for Walsall, and it was brilliant last time," he said.

The success of the event saw it receive the best speciality market of the year award for 2013 from the NABMA - the National Association of British Market Authorities.

Bosses said the market around The Bridge and Park Street had helped to put the town centre on the map, with the selection of music, entertainment and food drawing in the crowds.

The idea of a night market was initially included in Walsall's failed bid to become a Mary Portas Pilot Town.

Meal for charity

A RESTAURANT in Aldridge is offering a special set three-course meal on Sunday to 60 customers which will raise funds for the November charity supporting prostate and testicular cancer initiatives, in a private fundraising event.

Staff at the Laboni restaurant will be giving up their free time to support the fundraising of customer and cancer survivor Steve Jones at the afternoon event.

Pageant helps hearts



Pageant organiser Jessica Watts with winners Ellie Martin, aged 17, Millie Morgan, four, Georgia Delaney, 22, and Alexia Bates, 11

MORE than 30 girls and women from across the country took part in a beauty pageant in Walsall in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Organisers say up to £4,000 will have been collected from the event held at Walsall's County Hotel.

Those taking part ranged from three years old to their 30s and there were winners in the four categories of mini miss, pre-teen, teen and miss.

It was organised by Carol Watts

and her 17-year-old daughter Jessica, from Boxwich, who is Miss Teen Walsall.

They decided to raise money after Jessica's father had two heart attacks last summer.

The winners included Georgia Delaney, 22, from Wiltshire, Ellie Martin, 17, from Northampton and Alexia Bates, 11, of Dudley.

Millie Morgan, four, from Bentley who attends County Bridge School was named mini miss.

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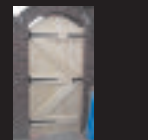
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FOCUS ON ALDRIDGE

It adds up to success for school

STUDENTS at Barr Beacon School in Aldridge have made an investment in their future by getting through to the regional finals of a business competition.

The four Year 10 pupils, Kelsey Birch, Millie Wilde, Thomas Farr and Luke Bartlam, known as MKLLI Inc, have astonished teachers and judges by outperforming the FTSE 100 share index in a competition run by Institute for Fiscal Studies School of Finance, managing to make to make a virtual £18,700 in shares in just three months.

Rod McKee, of the IFS, said: "This competition gives students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of making investment decisions, which will benefit them throughout their lives."

The group will represent the school at the North Wales and English Midlands final in Birmingham on March 21.

Theatre man dies, aged 67

A RETIRED gas worker who spent more than 30 years helping as a sound engineer at Aldridge Youth Theatre has died after an illness.

Richard Aulton, 67, lived alone at his home in Aldridge and dedicated a lot of his time to the theatre.

His funeral will take place on tomorrow (Friday) at Stretey Crematorium at 3.15pm.

Residents concerned as trees are cleared at care home site

RESIDENTS are up in arms over the destruction of trees that screen their homes from the future site of a large care home.

The three-storey building will be built on land once taken up by Baytree House, a two-storey residential home, and will provide care for up to 70 residents in modern apartments with a roof top bowling green.

Councillor John Rochelle voted against the development when it went before the planning committee. He said that he was surprised the development had gone ahead after a similar plan by developers was refused months earlier.

The planning proposal submitted by Restful Homes Group included a report based on surveys that indicated more than 80 trees may be at risk due to disease and rot.

Steve and Jayne Mason, both 43, live in Hallcroft Way, Aldridge, with their two young children. Their home, which backs on to the site, will now be over looked.

Despite seeing the plans online, they were surprised to see the number of trees removed.

Wrenched

Mr Mason said: "We are not necessarily against the idea of a care home but it's not in keeping with the character of the area. The trees going is terrible there was lots of wildlife, including squirrels and birds."

Sue Barrat, 65, has lived with husband Michael at their home in the road for more than 35 years and now fears properties value will drop.

She said: "We had been reassured by the plans that only a few trees would be

by Tom Mason

removed. They have decimated trees that have been there for years. The diggers came and just wrenched them up out of the soil."

Tom Cawley, managing director for Restful Homes said: "The trees were removed by trained professionals after several surveys had been carried out at the site. A number of the residents were at the meeting and all had a chance to object. What we are planning to build is well within building regulations."

"All the trees along the boundary will be replaced with new species as part of an expensive planting programme."

"When the development is complete I will be inviting all local residents in to see the work we have done."



Before – the wooded boundary next to the location for a new care home in May 2012



After – the site pictured last week after the developers moved in and cleared trees

Measures to protect memorial

SECURITY measures are being installed at one of Aldridge's best known landmarks to prevent vandals causing more damage.

The Barr Beacon War Memorial, off Old Hall Lane, will be protected by a CCTV camera system and the chemical SmartWater to trace plaques should they be stolen. Part of the refurbishment will include the replacement of the famous green copper roof with the less precious metal zinc roof, that has been treated so that it will remain in keeping with the memorial.

The measures have been introduced after metal thieves stripped the roof of its copper during two raids in 2011 leaving the site in need of £400,000 repairs.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, chairman of the Barr Beacon Trust, said: "This site is of significant historical importance, and we will do everything in our power to stop the mindless vandalism."

Museum in a bid to be permanent

A TRANSPORT museum is aiming to open more frequently this summer after submitting plans to remain in its present Aldridge location.

The Aston Manor Road Transport Museum has made a planning application to stay in Shenstone Drive.

Change of use from commercial premises to a museum will help the charity become a permanent fixture and open its doors to visitors on a regular basis.

It could then open up to four days a week and one aim is to become a regular school trip venue.

The intention is to become a fully operational museum by June.

Director

Aston Manor director Alan Bishop said: "Planning permission means we get more recognition of what we are trying to do."

"If we get through that planning hurdle we will need some modifications to make it more amenable to the public."

The application will go before councillors or officers under delegated powers.

The museum, including up to 30 vehicles, faced an uncertain period last autumn after being forced to search for a new home for the second time in 12 months.

A series of events have already been lined up this year including a 'museum re-awakening' on March 17.

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NEWS

Boss fined for having too many seats in stretch limo

A LIMOUSINE operator who took youngsters to their school prom in an unsuitable vehicle has been ordered to pay almost £1,000 by Walsall Magistrates Court.

Sarah Farrell was told to pay after admitting four charges relating to a Dodge stretch limousine registered in her name.

Farrell was not at court last week but pleaded guilty to four motoring-related charges in writing. They all related to her owning a limousine which had nine passenger seats rather than eight, which she had the official paperwork for.

The offences came to light after inspectors from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency pulled over the limo taking pupils from Wednesbury to a prom night at Walsall's Banks's Stadium on June 29 last year.

Paperwork

It was found that Farrell, aged 38, of Maryvale Road, Birmingham, did not have the proper paperwork and the limo was kitted out with nine seats though her licence only allowed her to carry eight passengers or less.

It was being driven by Michael Blewer, who was employed by Farrell. She was ordered to pay a £350 fine, £593 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Writing to the court, Farrell claimed that when she bought the limo she thought it could carry up to 10 passengers.

In January, Farrell had her limousine operator's licence revoked for 12-months by the West Midlands Traffic Commissioner Nick Jones. He found she had been "reckless" in failing to check the legal status of her stretch limo. At the time Mr Jones labelled Farrell, as a "naïve individual" who ought to have applied for a private hire licence from a local authority.

He said it had been a "flagrant breach of basic legal requirements" and she had already been warned of the rules.

Pub landlord's attacker gets suspended sentence

A TEENAGER who smashed a pint glass into the face of a Black Country pub landlord on Christmas Eve has been sentenced.

Staff at the Black Horse in Old Park Road, Darlaston, would not allow the girlfriend of Lewis Monk to drink alcohol on the premises because she did not have any ID, a judge heard. She was ejected by landlord Geoffrey Clarke after being spotted taking a swig from the drink of another customer in her group.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Mr Clarke, who had only been in the job for four days, then had an empty glass rammed into the side of his face, knocking him

to the ground, where he was attacked by the 19-year-old, who also threatened to burn the pub down.

Prosecutor Mr David Lees said Monk smashed a window causing £150 damage as he left after another customer halted the assault and tripped the culprit when he tried to run away.

Monk, from Goldthorn Road, Kidderminster admitted assault and damaging property and was given an eight-month sentence suspended under supervision for a year, told to do 100 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £850 in costs and compensation. He was also banned from the Black Horse for two years.

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NEWS

Hidden cameras plan to catch out fly-tippers

COVERT cameras will be installed at a fly-tipping hotspot in Moxley following complaints about tyres being dumped there.

There have been calls for Bain Lane to be cleaned up following five tyre fires since the start of the year.

Councillor Chris Bott said the number of tyres being dumped was posing a fire risk.

Walsall Council revealed that covert cameras will be put in place in a bid to stop

the "menace" of fly-tippers, who also struck at the landmark Barr Beacon war memorial last month.

Zahid Ali, public protection boss, called for people to report cases.

"Fly-tippers are a menace," he said.

"They ruin our streets and green spaces with no regard for residents who not only have to look at the eyesore they create but are paying for the clean-up through their council tax."

St Patrick's new priest is put in charge of parish



Father Jaison Karippai Kurian receives the keys to St Patrick's from Walsall Dean Father Michael Leadbeater
picture: Jozef Lopuszynski

THE new parish priest for St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Walsall is taking up his first English parish after being a priest in his home diocese of Kerala, in India.

Father Jaison Karippai Kurian arrived in Walsall in November but was recently officially inducted by Father Michael Leadbeater, Walsall Dean.

Father Jaison paid tribute to previous priest of St Patrick's Father John Harrington for his 36 years service to the parish.

He will also be chaplain to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Community in the Birmingham diocese.

'Last chance saloon' for a lead thief, 23

A FATHER-of-two who stripped lead from a Walsall brewery roof has walked free from court.

Aaron Baker caused £7,500 worth of damage when he targeted Highgate Brewery on the night of August 29 last year.

He and an accomplice, Amanda Perks, were arrested nearby by police after a neighbour raised the alarm.

Baker, of Hogarth Close, Willenhall, was given a 12-month community order at Walsall Magistrates Court last week and warned it was his last chance.

Chairman of the bench Brian Benton said custody was Baker's next stop if he committed any more offences.

Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, told the court: "At 11.25pm neighbours in Sandy Mount Road reported a male and female stripping the roof of the brewery. The male was seen to remove lead and slide it under locked gates.

"The property is listed. Damage was caused to the roof. Lead was removed, guttering damaged and a metal shutter ripped."

In an interview with

police, Baker denied going anywhere near the brewery. But he and Perks were found guilty of burglary after a day-long trial.

Evidence was heard that Baker and Perks stole up to 20ft of lead flashing from the Grade II-listed Highgate Brewery, as well as a number of beer bottles. Perks was the lookout and the lead was carried off in a green wheelie bin.

Police officers attended the scene soon after the burglary and Baker and Perks were standing outside her address in nearby Lysways Street.

CCTV

Baker was identified by officers on brewery CCTV and also in an identification parade by witnesses.

Mr Chris Stapleton, defending, told the court that Baker had an alcohol problem. He added: "He is aware prison is a possibility. He will lose his family, address and his children."

As well as the 12-month community order, 23-year-old Baker was also asked to pay £3,750 in compensation. Mr Benton told him: "This is the last chance saloon. Next for you is custody."

Perks is being sentenced at a later date at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

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Express & Star

INTERVIEW

Homecoming for comic who made Bilston market famous



Tom Stade returns to his adopted home Wolverhampton

COMEDIAN Tom Stade will be returning to the city he once called home when he performs in Wolverhampton on Saturday night.

And the Canadian-born stand up says he couldn't be happier than bringing his new tour, Tom Stade Totally Rocks, to his old stomping ground in the Black Country.

Speaking in his raspy tones, Tom said some of his fondest memories were from his three years living in Bilston, where he moved with his English wife and children for low rent and a central position for the UK gig circuit.

Not only that, but the town – which he affectionately nicknames 'the ghetto' – has given him reams of material.

"I know I make jokes about it but I love going to Wolverhampton," he says.

"I enjoy the people there. They are just fun and care-free. The crowds are awesome."

Homage

One of Tom's best-loved stand-up routines is about his days spent shopping for bargains at Bilston Market, particularly the patter of a mobile butcher.

He first performed that routine at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival some years back but it brought him fame when he stole the show on TV's Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow from Birmingham.

He said that although he wants to move on and focus on new material, he is considering including it in his upcoming set to pay homage to the city that became his home in the UK and where

Will Ackermann talks to Canadian comedian Tom Stade before his Civic Hall gig

one of his two children first went to school.

"The meat van joke has become a phenomenon to me," he says. "I've never seen anything like it. Now when I do it people just shout out all the lines."

"I wrote it four or five years ago. It's hard for me because you don't want to disappoint fans who want to see new material."

"But I think in Wolverhampton I might just do it for them because they are the ones who spawned it."

Other than that, Tom is keen to keep most of his act under lock and key. Giant beanbag chairs, basketball shorts and honey pots are the only topics he is willing to reveal will be up for discussion on Saturday night.

Tom Stade will be performing at the Civic Hall on March 2. Tickets cost £15. To book call 0870 320 7000 or visit the website www.wolvescivic.co.uk

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Betty is free from pain after having implants

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring aging process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.

Transformations

Suction another solution



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A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The den-

ture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference."

Toolbox

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can

present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants."

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenthall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer – call 01902 539300 for a free consultation. We can also be found at the Fresh Dental practice, 4 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, B67 5DG. Call 01384 348594 to book an appointment

COMPETITION

WIN 10 pairs of tickets to gardening extravaganza

SAVING money by growing your own food has never been a hotter topic. With soaring food prices and family budgets stretched, it's the perfect time to think about digging for the dinner plate.

That's why the Chronicle has teamed up with organisers of the award-winning national event, The Edible Garden Show, to offer 10 lucky readers the chance to each win a pair of tickets to this must-visit event.

Scheduled for the beginning of the growing season, The Edible Garden Show returns to Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, from 15-17 March harvesting a huge crop of exciting exhibitors and brings inspirational celebrity chefs and gardeners together under one roof in a one-stop shop for anyone wanting a slice of the "Good Life".

Popular chef Rachel Green will get taste buds tingling with her flamboyant cookery demonstrations and TV botanist James Wong will share his passion for growing exotic fruit and vegetables. BBC Gardeners' World presenter Alys Fowler will give mouth-watering talks on creating delicious salads from herbs and flowers and Gardeners' Question Time panellist Bob Flowerdew will talk "a load of old rot about compost".

The Show's resident grow-your-own guru Paul Peacock adds to the entertaining mix, sharing his passion for growing and eating home-grown crops.

The show has something for all the family from bees, chickens, goats and pigs to plants, seeds, compost, fruit presses, raised beds, tools and a range of innovative gadgets to making growing your own easier.

Show-goers will get a buzz with demonstrations from expert beekeepers and the British Pig Association is set to showcase native breeds of pigs and entertain families with daily ring demonstrations.



Meanwhile enthusiastic poultry vet Victoria Roberts will be on hand to share her hen-rearing tips.

● To enter our competition, simply answer the following question:

Which popular gardening celebrity will share his passion for growing exotic food?

Is it:

- A) James Wong
B) Alan Titchmarsh
C) Joe Swift

Usual Chronicle competition rules apply. All entrants must provide a postal address and/or email address and daytime telephone number. Competition closes on March 7. Send your answer via postcard or email only to:

The Edible Garden competition
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If you don't win, there is also a special discount ticket rate for Chronicle readers who can buy a pair of adult tickets for just £20 – saving a tenner!

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MEMORY LANE

Madeleine Carroll



Details on the plaque

Madeleine Carroll

Madeleine Carroll, a Hollywood star whose credits included *The 39 Steps*, is remembered in three plaques around her home town of West Bromwich. One is at her birthplace in Herbert Street, another is at a home in Jesson Street where she spent most of her childhood. A third is at the former West Bromwich Grammar School.

Jerome K Jerome

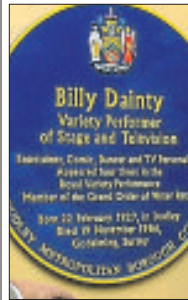


Birthplace plaque

Jerome K Jerome

Jerome K Jerome was a humorist and writer, best known as the author of *Three Men in a Boat*. Born in Bradford Street, Walsall, he was the fourth child of ironmonger Jerome Clapp. The plaque is at his birthplace. Other works include the essay collections *Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* and *Second Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* and *Three Men on the Bummel*.

Billy Dainty

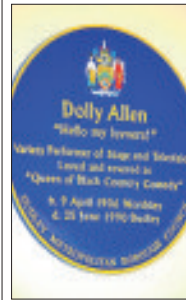


Billy's plaque

Comic Billy Dainty

Billy Dainty, was a Dudley-born comedian best remembered for the 1970s Thames Television series *Billy Dainty Esq.* He later appeared alongside Rod Hull on the children's television series *Emu's Broadcasting Company*, and was said to have been the Queen Mother's favourite pantomime dame. His plaque is at Dudley Town Hall.

Dolly Allen



Dolly's plaque

Star Dolly Allen

Dolly Allen, who is honoured with a plaque at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, was a popular comedienne who formed part of the Black Country Night Out light entertainment group. She is best remembered for the catchphrase "Hello my luvvers!" in a broad Midlands accent. She was also known for her trademark straw hat with its turkey feather and timeless deadpan delivery.

Plaques play an educational role

THE blue plaques still play a huge huge educational role, says Jez Nicholson, of the national website Open Plaques.

"The plaques are very often the first thing that gets people to take an interest in their local history," he adds.

There is a question mark over the future of them in London but there are plenty to be seen around the Black Country.

In Dudley there are seven such plaques (although only five of them are actually blue), around 20 in Sandwell, and around seven in Walsall.

Television comedian Billy Dainty, who died aged 59 in 1986, is honoured on a plaque at Dudley Town Hall, along with fellow pantomime star Clarkson Rose.

Others in the borough include Halesowen poet and landscape gardener William Shenstone, comedienne Dolly Allen, and Hollywood star Sir Cedric Hardwicke.

Dudley's cabinet member for culture

by Mark Andrews

Councillor Tracy Wood says the council's policy is that the plaques should be funded by the person or group requesting them, and this includes installation, unless it is on a council building.

One of Walsall's five plaques is in memory of Jerome K Jerome, the author of *Three Men in a Boat*.

Moreen Wilkes is chairman of West Bromwich Local History Society, which is behind three plaques which have been installed at landmarks around the town.

She says securing funding for the plaques has definitely become more difficult recently, and can well envisage that fewer new plaques will be unveiled in years to come.

"In the past there has been lottery funding available, but a lot of that has dried up," she says. The funding is there if you are willing to search for it, but it is very difficult

to find, and you really have to dot all the 'i's and cross all the 't's.

"A lot of the heritage money went to the Olympics last year, meaning that there is less to go around."

It was Heritage Lottery funding that helped Smethwick Local History Society mark the Millennium by having 10 plaques erected at important sites around the area.

"Our plaques cost in the region of £250," says the society's Mary Bodfish.

Dedicated

Among the sites recognised in this way are the site of James Watt's Smethwick engine which pumped water from the town's locks in 1779 to 1891, and the Old Chapel Inn, previously The Hand of Providence, an 18th century pub in Uplands which dates from the same time as the neighbouring church.

Warley Woods, and the Soho Foundry are also recognised.

Historian Terry Price is behind three plaques in West Bromwich, all of which are dedicated to the Hollywood star Madeleine

Carroll.

One is at her birthplace, which was financed by the proceeds of Mr Price's history books, another at her childhood home was jointly financed by Mr Price and Sandwell Council, and a third, at the former West Bromwich Grammar School, where Carroll was a pupil, was sponsored by the Old Throstles Association.

Not that everybody is keen on being honoured in this way.

Mr Price approached rock legend Robert Plant about installing a plaque at his birthplace in West Bromwich, but the musician declined the offer.

Mr Price believes there probably will be fewer plaques installed in years to come, but this is not down to shortage of funding.

"I don't think there are that many people who are really successful, and we don't want it to become devalued to the point where every Tom, Dick and Harry is getting something."

Sister Dora

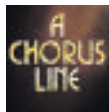


Sister Dora plaque

Sister Dora

Dorothy Pattison, more commonly known as Sister Dora, was a nun who was sent to work at Walsall's hospital in Bridge Street in 1865. She spent the rest of her life in the town earning comparisons with Florence Nightingale. She dealt with a smallpox epidemic in the town in 1875. In 1882, a stained glass window at St Matthew's Church, Walsall, was dedicated to her.

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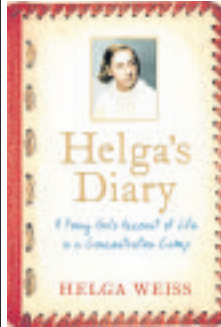
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BOOKS

Theory of superiority led from Brum to Birkenau



The Nazis industrialised death thanks to mass transport made possible by railways



A girl gives a heart-breaking account of life in a concentration camp - and survives

EUGENICS, the pernicious pseudo-scientific idea that some races are superior to others, was taken to its murderous extreme by Adolf Hitler but can trace its origins back to Victorian Birmingham.

The term 'eugenics', from the Greek word eu (good or well) and suffix genes (born), was coined by Sparkbrook-born Sir Francis Galton, who was inspired by his cousin Charles Darwin's seminal work *On The Origin Of Species*.

The theory of natural selection influenced Galton's research into selective breeding, which sparked a deeply-flawed eugenics movement which became influential in the early 20th century. It reached its horrific extreme in the 1940s with Hitler's Final Solution and the depraved experiments of Josef Mengele.

Evidence

A party of 200 Black Country school-children recently saw evidence of the tragic results of eugenics on a visit to Poland, organised by the Holocaust Education Trust, to tour the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Birmingham connection is highlighted in new book *Railways And The Holocaust: The Trains That Shamed The World* (Mortons, paperback, £6.99). It may at first seem incongruous for a railway magazines publisher to focus on the Holocaust, and the detailing of locomotive serial numbers seems oddly out of place on pages dealing with mass murder, but without the railways the murder of millions of people in concentration camps would not have been possible.

In a series of interesting articles author Robin Jones explores the roots of Nazi racism, the role of railway workers in the Holocaust and asks why the rail lines to the death camps were not bombed.

The most famous story from the Holocaust is that recounted in the *Diary of a*

Young Girl by Anne Frank but that ends before Anne was transported to her death at Auschwitz. The newly published *Helga's Diary* (Viking, hardback, £16.99) is Czech Jewish child Helga Weiss's account of life and death inside Terezin concentration camp.

It is the little things that break the heart here, a girl's desperate yearning to catch a glimpse of the father so cruelly separated from her and the childish illustrations of life in the camp. Only a few hundred of the 15,000 Jewish children who entered Terezin survived, one of them was Helga, now a great-grandmother living in Prague.

She has rewritten sections of her journal over the years and maybe they should have been left in their raw state, but it remains a powerful testament.

Other recent publications on this darkest period of human history include:

Blood Lands (Bodley Head, hardback, £25) shows that the Holocaust happened outside the camps too, as Timothy Snyder goes to great length to give voice to the victims of massacres in the 'Blood Lands' between Berlin and Moscow, where 14 million died over 12 years as victims of Hitler and Stalin.

The Forgotten Holocaust (Hippocrene, paperback, £16.99) by Richard C Lukas highlights the suffering of the Polish nation during the Second World War, and suffer they did with some six million deaths. He also tackles the still sensitive issue of Polish-Jewish relations.

Save the Continent (Viking, hardback, £25) by Keith Lowe explores the period after the war officially ended. The architects of the new Europe were eventually successful in rebuilding a continent laid waste with entire cities obliterated and 35 million people dead. But there was a lawless, chaotic period after the war when nationalists fought Communists, Germans suffered retribution and Jews were again targeted.

Leon Burakowski

MOTHER'S DAY Sunday 10th March

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March Mayhem at Bloxwich Leisure Centre

Look at these new activities and special offers being launched in March!

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Make the pool your gym with these instructor led sessions
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Free for under 25's

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12 week weight management programme for men, Mondays 6pm (from 18th March) and Fridays 10am (from 22nd March)
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What's On! Walsall

Comedy in store at the Showcase

STAND-UP comedy returns to the big screen at Showcase Walsall with a showing of *The Comedy Store: Raw and Uncut*, featuring Roger Monkhouse, on Friday, March 8, at 10pm. Joining Monkhouse is Canadian comedian Glenn Wool.

It is the second in a series of shows from London's iconic Comedy Store, regarded as the home of British comedy. It has hosted the best of the UK comedy circuit, which can now be watched at Showcase Walsall.

General tickets cost £12.50.

A last chance to enter talent show

TODAY (Thursday) is the last chance to enter a variety show giving youngsters a chance to win £100.

Aldridge Does Variety will be run by the Aldridge Youth Theatre during April. Acts of any kind, involving 12 to 18-year-olds, are welcome.

Auditions are on April 13 with application forms due to be returned by February 28. The final show is on April 20 at their Noddy Park Road base.

For forms visit www.alldridgeyouththeatre.org

Taking the mic night

AN open mic night will be held at Bookmark Bloxwich in Elmore Row on March 8. It takes place from 8pm and budding musicians can book a slot by calling (01922) 655900.

Macabre medieval mystery for meddling monk to solve

WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre hosts a world premiere when it stages the first performances of a new play featuring popular 12th century detective Brother Cadfael.

The Virgin In The Ice marks the centenary of the birth of Cadfael author Ellis Peters, who died in 1995. Director Michael Lunney adapts for theatre one of her most popular mystery novels featuring the medieval monk, who is also an amateur sleuth and expert botanist.

Playing the Shropshire Benedictine Brother is Gareth Thomas, who starred in cult sci-fi TV favourite *Blake's 7* in the 1970s and 80s.

In *The Virgin In The Ice*, Cadfael investigates when a pair of orphans and a young nun go missing during a bleak winter as a civil war rages.

Gareth Thomas leads a cast that also includes former London's Burning actors Richard Walsh and Rupert Baker, and James Palmer from River City. The play is staged from Wednesday to Saturday, March 6 to 9 at the Lichfield Street theatre.



Gareth Thomas as Cadfael

Monty

Highlights this week include revealing comedy-drama about life on the dole *The Full Monty* continuing at Birmingham Hippodrome to Saturday. Cole Porter musical *High Society* ends its Grand run on Saturday.

Strictly's Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag dance at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday.

The exciting new play based upon Philip Pullman's *I Was A Rat!* is at Birmingham Old Rep to Saturday.



They believe in a thing called love - The Darkness are ready to rock Wolverhampton

Civic are you ready to rock?

THE DARKNESS began as a mock rock band but rapidly became the real thing, albeit with tongue in cheek, when *I Believe In A Thing Called Love* became a worldwide hit.

Fronted by Justin Hawkins, the melodic glam metal outfit from Suffolk have continued to win fans and prominent among them is Lady Gaga, who The Darkness supported on tour.

Dogs

Their third album *Hot Cakes* is full of rock anthems and Wolverhampton better be ready to rock when The Darkness hit the stage at the Civic Hall on Wednesday, March 6.

Also worth catching are veteran rockers Dogs D'amour, fronted by Wolverhampton's Tyla, at the city's Slade Rooms on Sunday.

Arias in area as city hosts operas

NEXT week is good for opera fans with classics coming to Birmingham. Welsh National Opera make their first second city visit of the year to take up residence at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, March 5 to 9.

They perform a new version of *Lulu* (sung in German) on Tuesday, The Cunning Little Vixen (in English) on Thursday, and *Madam Butterfly* (in Italian) on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Moldovan National Opera perform Bizet's passionate *Carmen* at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday, March 2.

Comedians bring laughs to venues

HIP comedian Russell Kane brings his Posturing Delivery stand-up tour to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre tomorrow night (Friday) and has sold out his Stafford Gatehouse gig on the following night, Saturday.

Canadian comic Tom Stadel, a former Bilston resident, is at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Tickets on sale for village variety

TICKETS are on sale for Pelsall Musical Society's *Missing Link* or *What's My Name*, a variety revue. Tickets for the shows on March 21, 22 and 23 at Pelsall Methodist Church are available from Glenn and Jennifer Poole on 01922 684263.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 2.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Alexander Armstrong

Pointless Celebrities:

Comic Relief Special

BBC1, 6.10pm
Over the past couple of years, it's seemed like comedy partners Ben Miller and Alexander Armstrong were going their separate ways. Miller has been solving murders in the Caribbean in the BBC's hit *Death in Paradise*, while Armstrong has been busy asking people to name elements on the periodic table and grand slam tennis winners on this quiz show. But now, they are about to be reunited once again in a special Comic Relief edition of *Pointless* – well, sort of. Miller is actually competing on the quiz.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. **8.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Film: The Shaggy Dog. (2006) **2.30** Live Athletics. **4.25** Final Score. **5.20** Animal Antics. **5.50** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.10** **Pointless Celebrities: Comic Relief Special.** Fast Show duo Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson. Death in Paradise actors Danny John-Jules and Ben Miller, and comedians Ed Byrne and Shappi Khorsandi compete. **7.00** **Let's Dance for Comic Relief.** Vanessa Feltz, Keith Duffy, Lee Nelson, ventriloquist Nina Conti and newsreaders Ore Oduba and Sonali Shah compete, with music by Nicole Scherzinger and Justin Bieber. **8.25** **The National Lottery: In it to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to score a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws. **9.15** **Casualty.** Big Mac thinks he may have finally found his dream woman and lets her believe he is a doctor, while Ash clashes with Zoe by carrying out a risky procedure without her knowledge. **10.05** BBC News: Weather. **10.25** **Match of the Day.** Including Manchester United v Norwich City; National Lottery Update. **11.55** **The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two. **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.30** Great British Menu. **8.00** Great British Menu. **8.30** Great British Menu. **9.00** Great British Menu. **9.30** Great British Menu. **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. **11.30** Map Man. **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. **12.30** Mastermind. **1.00** University Challenge. **1.30** Talking Pictures. **2.15** Film: Doctor in the House. (1954) **3.40** Coast. **4.25** Live Athletics. **6.00** **Flog It! Trade Secrets.** **7.00** **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond design a vehicle for elderly people. James May gets acquainted with the latest Range Rover and James McAvoy drives the Reasonably Priced Car. **8.00** **Dad's Army.** Walmington-on-Sea's power and communications services are cut off, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the occasion by declaring martial law. **8.30** **Queen of Tigers: Natural World Special.** Wildlife cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson returns to India to follow the progress of tiger Machli and chart the extraordinary milestones in her life. **9.30** **Howard Goodall's Story of Music.** The composer examines the history of the past 100 years in music, known as the popular age – a period when classical music was considered to be in decline. Last in the series. **10.30** **Film: The First Grader.** (2010) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring Oliver Litondo and Naomie Harris. **12.05** **Film: The Private Lives of Pippa Lee.** (2009) **1.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. **6.35** The Hive. **6.45** Dino Dan. **7.00** Dino Dan. **7.10** Canimals. **7.20** Canimals. **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Share a Story: Behind the Scenes. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. **11.25** Dinner Date. **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Film: Columbo: Negative Reaction. (1974) **2.35** The Chase: Celebrity Special. **3.35** Film: Dragonheart. (1996) **5.30** Regional Programme. Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **You've Been Framed and Famous!** Harry Hill showcases some of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers. **6.15** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Geordie duo perform an undercover prank on Jeremy Kyle. **8.15** **The Cube.** New series. A firefighter and a competitive swimmer try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. **9.15** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to actor and comedian Jack Whitehall (Fresh Meat) and American pop star Bruno Mars, who also performs live. **10.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.30** **Film: Body of Lies.** (2008) Premiere. A CIA agent pursuing a terrorist is caught between allegiance to his superior and the local intelligence chief. Thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **12.50** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** In Plain Sight. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. **6.35** The Hoobs. **7.00** Will & Grace. **7.25** Film Superbike World Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. **9.50** Frasier. **10.20** Frasier. **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. **11.20** The Big Bang Theory. **11.45** The Simpsons. **12.20** The Simpsons. **12.50** Undercover Boss USA. **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Come Dine with Me. **4.35** Come Dine with Me. **5.05** Come Dine with Me. **5.40** Come Dine with Me. **6.10** Come Dine with Me. **6.40** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **4thought.tv.** Suggested replacements for the Pope. **7.05** **Edward VIII: The Plot to Topple a King.** An archbishop's bid to remove the monarch. **8.00** **Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home.** The Grand Designs presenter continues his project by searching for items to transform the shell of his wooden cabin into a habitable home, including a floor, a window and a stove. **9.00** **Film: Transporter 3.** (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham. **11.05** **Film: Jumper.** (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. **12.45** Tim Minchin: Ready for This? **2.15** Southland. **2.55** Hollyoaks. **3.00** Countdown. **3.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. **4.00** Countdown.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.05** Looney Tunes. **11.15** Highland Emergency. **11.45** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. **12.45** Beat the Ancestors. **1.45** Film: Mosquito Squadron. (1968) **3.30** Film: Vera Cruz. (1954) **5.20** Film: Chisum. (1970). **7.25** **5 News Weekend.** **7.30** **CSI: NY.** The team is called in to investigate the murder of a girl dressed as a virtual world character – and a search of her computer reveals she had been conducting an online relationship. **8.15** **NCIS.** Inquiries into the death of a Marine land the team squarely in the middle of an inner-city gang war, forcing Gibbs to confront a secret from his past. **9.10** **NCIS.** One of Tony's old murder investigations is reopened, prompting him to switch roles with Gibbs and lead the team in an inquiry that links the case to an embezzlement scheme. **10.05** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Benson and Stabler are faced with a dilemma when a child abuse suspect offers to reveal the identity of a controversial civil rights group's leader in exchange for an amnesty. **11.05** **Law & Order: Criminal Intent.** A war veteran is accused of killing an escort's boyfriend. **12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. **4.25** Divine Designs. **4.50** County Secrets. **5.05** Hana's Heipline. **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. **5.40** Thomas & Friends. **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. **6.00** Roary the Racing Car.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Merlin **7.45** Doctor Who **8.30** Film: Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2010) **10.20** World's Craziest Fools **10.50** Family Guy **11.35** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Britain's Natural World **8.00** Baroque! From St Peter's to St Paul's **9.00** Spiral 4: State of Terror **10.50** Dusty Springfield at the BBC **11.50** The Beatles' Please Please Me – Remaking a Classic
ITV2
4.15 You've Been Framed! **5.45** Film: Babe (1995) **7.45** Film: Ocean's Eleven (2001) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Film: Shaun of the Dead (2004)
ITV3
2.35 A Touch of Frost **4.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Film: The Portrait of a Lady (1996)
ITV4
3.00 Ronnie O'Sullivan: Sports Life Stories **4.00** Cheers **4.30** World of Sport: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **4.50** Film: Without a Clue (1988) **7.00** TT Legends **7.30** GT Academy **8.00** River Monsters: Deadliest Encounters **9.00** Film: Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15** Film: Game of Death (2010)
E4
3.35 Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: Epic Movie (2007) **10.45** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** The Cleveland Show
Film4
3.00 Kidnapped (1971) **5.05** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) **6.55** Mad Money (2008) **9.00** Forrest Gump (1994) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks. **11.40** Predator 2 (1990)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 3.03.13

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CHOICE



Jim Caviezel

Person of Interest
Channel 5, 9pm

The Machine throws out the social security number of young entrepreneur Adam Sanders, who works for a Wall Street trading company. Reese goes undercover posing as a new investor in the firm, while Finch raids Adam's apartment and discovers multiple shoeboxes stuffed with \$200 bills. Upon further investigation, the pair ascertain that the trader possesses classified information about his company that would put its entire future in jeopardy - and he is planning to expose it. Drama, starring Jim Caviezel and Michael Emerson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Call the Midwife. (R) **3.00** Walk on the Wild Side. **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Penguins - Spy in the Huddle. (R)

6.05 **Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Steve Backshall searches for the world's deadliest animals.

6.35 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryfile.** The dialect of Northumberland, the Victorian man who powered his house with water and the possible impact of the proposed new high-speed rail link on the countryside. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Call the Midwife.** Cynthia tells a diabetic man who turns out to be a terrible bully to his wife, Jenny looks after a black mother-to-be being subjected to racial prejudice, and Chummy returns.

9.00 **Mayday.** New series. Drama about the search for a missing teenage girl.

10.00 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2.** Action from Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal.

11.15 **Room 101 - Extra Storage.** With Craig Revel Horwood, Sheila Hancock and Jon Richardson. Last in the series.

11.55 **The Sky at Night.** The results of Patrick Moore's last Winter Marathon.

12.15 **The Apprentice USA.** **1.40** Weatherview. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.10** Film: Hot Enough for June. (1964) **8.45** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **9.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Live Athletics. **11.40** EastEnders. (R) **1.30** MasterChef: The Professionals Uncovered. (R) **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.15** Live Athletics.

6.00 **Food & Drink.** (R) **6.30** **The Sea King: Britain's Flying Past.** (R)

7.30 **Open All Hours.** Miserly shopkeeper Arkwright organises a sales drive in a bid to boost profits, with Granville demonstrating the products. (R)

8.00 **Top Gear.** Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May visit Africa on a mission to find the definitive source of the Nile using grit, ingenuity and ageing estate cars. (R)

9.00 **The Truth About Meteors: A Horizon Special.** Professor Iain Stewart explores what meteorites and asteroids are, where they come from, the dangers they pose and the role they have played in Earth's history.

10.00 **Mock the Week Looks Back at Health.** New series. Highlights of the topical comedy quiz show. Health is the subject of the first episode, including another chance to hear about Dara O'Brian's curious exercise regime.

10.30 **Dancing on the Edge.** Stanley plans to help Louis leave the country. Last in the series. (R)

12.05 Film: The Science of Sleep. (2006) **1.45** Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) **2.45** Being Eileen. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Animals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.45** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Film: Carry On Matron. (1972) **2.15** Doc Martin. (R) **3.15** Agatha Christie's Marple. (R) **5.15** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.45** Regional Programme: Weather.

6.00 **ITV News:** Weather.

7.45 **Dancing on Ice.**

7.45 **All Star Family Fortunes.** With Michael Owen and Penny Lancaster. Last in the series.

8.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off.** The two lowest-scoring couples compete. Last in the series.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge.** Harry is disturbed by news of a death, Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton gives a lecture in the store and Victor steals himself to tell Lady Mae what he thinks of her.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten:** Weather.

10.15 **Her Majesty's Prison - Aylesbury.** Conclusion. Life at the young offenders' institution in Buckinghamshire. (R)

11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 17th round of fixtures.

12.15 **The Store.** **2.15** Monk. (R) **3.00** **ITV Nightseries.** **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Mark Webber Tasmania Challenge. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** Film: The Princess Diaries. (2001) **4.25** Time Team. **5.25** Deal or No Deal.

6.25 **Channel 4 News.**

6.55 **Although.** Suggested replacements for the Pope.

7.00 **Ottolenghi's Mediterranean Feast.** Chef Yotam Ottolenghi's culinary journey takes him to Istanbul, Turkey, where he tastes fish from the waters of the Bosphorus and samples the street food.

8.00 **Meteor Strike: Fireball from Space.** Documentary about the meteorite that crashed into Russia's Ural mountains in February, including previously unseen footage and expert insight from astrophysicists.

9.00 **Film: The Tourist.** (2010) Premiere. A woman tries to make the police think a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.

11.05 **Film: The Quick and the Dead.** (1995) A female gunslinger turns up at a frontier town for a shooting contest and to settle an old score. Western, with Sharon Stone.

1.05 Jack Whitehall: My Funniest Year. (R) **3.00** 4Funnies: Uncle. (R) **3.25** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.50** Olive the Ostrich. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pajamas. (R) **7.25** Animal Antics. (R) **7.30** Wake Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Once Upon a Time. (R) **12.00** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985)

1.00 Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) **3.30** Film: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. (1988) **5.45** Beat the Ancestors.

6.40 **5 News Weekend.**

6.45 **Film: Rocky.** (1976) Oscar-winning boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone.

9.00 **Person of Interest.** Reese protects a young entrepreneur.

10.00 **Film: Crank: High Voltage.** Premiere. Thriller, starring Jason Statham. (2009)

11.50 **Film: Renegade Justice.** (2007) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal.

1.45 SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Let's Dance for Comic Relief
8.15 Film: The Sorcerer's Apprentice (2010) **10.00** Being Human **11.00** People Like Us
BBC Four
7.00 The Story of British Pathe **8.00** Mark Lawson Talks to Mark Knopfler **9.00** Boxing at the Movies: Kings of the Ring **10.00** Film: Cinderella Man (2005)

ITV2
2.20 Film: Dennis (1993) **4.10** Film: Beethoven (1991) **6.00** You've Been Framed! **7.35** Film: Ocean's Thirteen (2007) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Celebrity Juice

ITV3
5.55 Film: The Likely Lads (1976)

5.45 Murder, She Wrote **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Film: Dead Calm (1989) Suspense thriller, with Nicole Kidman and Sam Neill. **11.00** Wycliffe

ITV4
3.30 TT Legends **4.00** UEFA Champions League Weekly **4.30** Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998)

7.00 The Sweeney **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) **11.20** Film: Smecky and the Bandit II (1980)

E4
4.35 Revenge **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** New Girl **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Film: Stardust (2007) **10.30** Rude Tube **11.35** The Big Bang Theory: Access All Areas

Film4
3.10 Akeelah and the Bee (2006) **5.20** Inspector Gadget (1999) **6.55** X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) **9.00** This Is England (2006) Shane Meadows' drama set in the 1980s, starring Thomas Turgoose. **11.05** Nine to Five (1980)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Rocky, Channel 5, 11pm
Philadelphia brawler Rocky Balboa gets a shot at the world heavyweight title when current champion Apollo Creed decides to give an unknown boxer a chance in celebration of America's bicentennial. Oscar-winning drama, starring Sylvester Stallone. (1976)

TUESDAY

The Killing Fields, BBC1, 12.20am
Oscar-winning fact-based drama following an American reporter's harrowing experiences in 1970s Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge's fight for control of the country. He develops a close friendship with his Cambodian guide, whom he is forced to leave behind to possibly become a victim of the murderous new regime. Starring Sam Waterston. (1984)

WEDNESDAY

Management, BBC1, 11.45pm
A travelling art saleswoman and a motel employee begin an unconventional courtship when she stays at the establishment during a business trip. However, when it is time for her to return home, he has trouble letting go of his new-found romance and impulsively decides to follow her cross-country. Comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Steve Zahn. (2008)



Rocky, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY

Cries in the Dark, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A cop investigates the disappearance of her pregnant sister, whose body is eventually discovered, having given birth. She discovers the killer is her brother-in-law's deranged lover, and faces a desperate race to find out where she is hiding the newborn child. Thriller, starring Eva La Rue, Adam Harrington, Gina Chiarelli and Adrian Holmes. (2006)

FRIDAY

Hard Target, ITV, 10.35pm
A woman searching for her missing father hires an out-of-work merchant sailor to guide her through the streets of New Orleans, where his martial arts skills are greatly tested in a series of encounters with sadistic hunters of human prey. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Yancy Butler. (1993)

I've Loved You So Long, BBC2, 11.50pm

A doctor released from prison goes to live with her younger sister, who was a teenager when she was sentenced but now has a family of her own. The ex-convict struggles to adapt to life in the outside world, while her brother-in-law is not happy with the new addition to his household. Drama, starring Kristin Scott Thomas. In French and English. (2008)

Pick of the Week

New role is far from child's play for Tennant

A child is dead. A community is in shock. A stranger arrives, keen to find out what happened.

In those three short, sharp sentences, we have the basic plot of Broadchurch, a new, eight-part drama from Chris Chibnall.

"Broadchurch is a hybrid: a cocktail of stories," explains Chibnall. "A drama about a community racked by grief and suspicion. A whodunit packed with suspects. A character-driven, emotional thriller, thick with twists and turns."

The writer's previous credits include Torchwood and Doctor Who – in fact, Broadchurch features several actors who have featured in the latter, such as David Tennant, Olivia Colman and Arthur Darvill. But the drama itself couldn't be further removed from the Whoniverse if it tried.

Instead, it focuses on the effect young Danny Latimer's death has on the residents of the small Dorset town in which he lived, including his devastated parents, sister and grandmother, as well as the local vicar, the family's friends and a

mysterious character living in the local caravan park.

Policewoman Ellie Miller is close to the case thanks to her son's friendship with Danny, and she finds it difficult to deal with the subsequent investigation into his death, which is led by DI Alec Hardy, a newcomer to the area whose methods may stir matters up.

"The script has great humanity and I think Chris shows immense understanding of the human condition in all the different characters and the way it impacts on the community," says Tennant. "I think it will have emotional empathy, which is what pulls the audience in, whatever it is – whether it's a murder mystery or something set in the future on Mars – it's always that recognition of the human experience. That's what makes us enjoy watching other people's stories."

Having worked with Chibnall before on Doctor Who, Tennant knew the script for Broadchurch would be good, but wasn't prepared for just HOW good it would be.

"I initially had two scripts to look at with the knowledge that

subsequent scripts would be appearing throughout the process and we wouldn't get final scripts until months into the shoot – which is a gamble," claims Tennant. "But the fact I read it from cover to cover in one pass and was left at the end of the first episode desperately wanting to know what happens next was telling."

Jodie Whittaker, Andrew Buchan, Carolyn Pickles and Vicky McClure are among the outstanding supporting cast – and if their presence in this production is anything to go by, it's going to be very special indeed.

Tennant is certainly very happy with the way the drama has turned out: "What's been great is working with the varied and talented cast. It's great to be part of a genuine ensemble."

"It's also great to be part of something where all the characters have equally powerful stories to tell. There's the whodunit aspect but there are other stories going on at the same time and such wonderful people portraying those parts and seeing those characters and worlds develop."



David Tennant stars in the crime drama Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

SuperScrippers Channel 4, 8.30pm

It's not news that we're all pulling in the purse strings at the moment. So thank goodness Mrs Moneybags is back. She will be pitching up her cash clinic in a city centre beauty salon, giving us the lowdown on the money matters that concern us. Meanwhile, Harry Wallop investigates bargain products compared to their more expensive counterparts, while the scrippers return with a series of tips. And Siobhan Witter, who has a major problem with overspending on clothes, is challenged to find three new looks for £50.

The Flying Scotsman: A Rail Romance

BBC2, 9pm

In 1923, LNER Class A3 Pacific steam locomotive No 4472 was completed in Doncaster for the London and North East Railway. By 1963, The Flying Scotsman was retired from service after covering more than two million miles, but has also enjoyed tours of the United States and Australia. Those nice folks at the National Railway Museum in York have been keeping a close eye on its restoration since it was bought in 2004, with the aid of public donations. Here, Barbara Flynn lends her dulcet tones to this film exploring the nation's love affair with one of Britain's steamiest stars.

TUESDAY

Live UEFA Champions League

ITV, 7.30pm

Manchester United face Real Madrid in this last-16 second-leg match at Old Trafford, and both teams

will consider this an excellent opportunity to progress to the quarter-finals. The tie is delicately poised at 1-1 following the first leg at the Bernabeu, which saw United take the lead through Danny Welbeck, before former Red Devil Cristiano Ronaldo equalised for his current employers. United goalkeeper David de Gea received many plaudits for his performance on the night after making a string of saves that helped to keep Madrid at bay. The home side go into tonight's fixture as slight favourites seeing as they managed to score a crucial away goal in the Spanish capital.

The Matt Lucas Awards

BBC1, 10.35pm

Viewers could be forgiven for thinking they're watching Room 101 as the format for this second series is so similar to Frank Skinner's show: three guests; amiable host; funny film clips; assorted categories. For the first of the new run, Ardal O'Hanlon, Robert Webb and Adil Ray are on the sofa while Matt's mum is in the kitchen. First up is the Least Comprehensible UK Accent. Ardal opts for Northern Irish, Robert goes for Lincolnshire, and Adil decides Sir Alex Ferguson should be nominated. That gives Matt an excuse to launch into a series of hit-and-miss impressions, but one of the best bits of the show – the Hidden Talent Award – sees Adil guessing cars just from the sound of the engine. Get that man on Top Gear.

WEDNESDAY

Food Glorious Food

ITV, 8pm

Carol Vorderman has been known to make headlines and even win awards for her svelte figure. However, she recently admitted that this programme has been quite the weakness after having given in to copious amounts of delicious food when judging. Luckily for us, we can enjoy it from the comfort of our armchairs without worrying about our calorie intake. That is until the winning recipe hits the shelves of Marks and Spencer. This week, Carol and the team are headed to the south-west of England, sampling the delights on offer in Devon.

THURSDAY

Waterloo Road

BBC1, 8pm

They may be too young to get married, but Imogen (Kirstie Steele) and Connor (Shane O'Meara) make a lovely couple. The registry office has called and there's been a cancellation, so they decided to tie the knot. Talking of loved-up couples, Michael (Alec Newman) and Christine (Laure Brett)

look like besotted teenagers themselves, but as ever at Waterloo Road, there's no end of personal and professional problems ready to rain on everyone's parade. Scout (Katie McGlynn) has both her exams and cheating, sick housemate mum Tina (Lisa Riley) to think about.

FRIDAY

Coronation Street

ITV, 7.30pm

Now his fling with Sunita has gone sour, and he's lost his job, Karl wants to get back with Stella. As she's made it clear she doesn't want him back (kidnapping her in his cab being one of the many reasons), Karl is now gunning for her boyfriend, Jason. Grimshaw may be in the running for a council building job, but when his van is stolen, it looks like it'll scupper his chances. Could Karl be to blame for the theft, or is another dodgy local to blame? Meanwhile, Jason's mum is worried that Paul will leave her for someone else.

Wild Arabia

BBC2, 9pm

No documentary about the changing face of the Arabian Peninsula is complete unless it has taken oil into consideration, and that's the focus of this final edition of the series. We see how the riches afforded the region by its abundance of 'black gold' has affected all manner of changes, from camel racing to wild animals' habitats. Although Arabia's untamed critters are now living side-by-side with a modern developed world, this is not always a bad thing – as new technology is being used to protect them and the environment.

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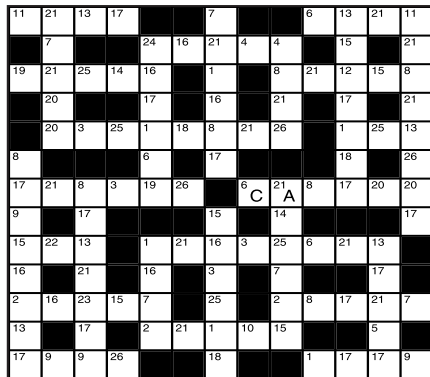
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.210

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	N	E	Q	A	Y	K	T	L	O	C	U	I	J
2	P	S	M	V	R	D	B	F	Z	H	X	W	G

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Photographs used by whisky producers (6)
- There's nothing in the little wood but a furrow (6)
- A street intersects unspoilt grazing land (7)
- Smith uses it to make money (5)
- The image is not working, we hear (4)
- A comfortable position for a new life, by the sound of it (5)
- He may be found in a deceitful act (5)
- Wicked demon beheaded (4)
- Tempestuous character? (5)
- This competitor is obviously no outsider (7)
- Is coming in to contemplate ill-treatment (6)
- Call for a replay (6)

Down

- Descriptive of a medical preparation - variety of paste, I see! (7)
- Simon is disturbed by the errand (7)
- Bread supplied for the meal? No, just the reverse (5)
- Were they made by the first P.O.? (7)
- The directors sound unimpressed (5)
- 6 and 14 Down. Not at any time in the minority, in spite of what has been said (12)
- Produces teenagers in trouble (9)
- See 6 Down
- He takes a plane from Moldavia to Rome (7)
- Use an iron to pitch lower (7)
- Hands seen waving on tropical islands (5)
- The place for the winner (5)
- Make up for a faulty note (5)

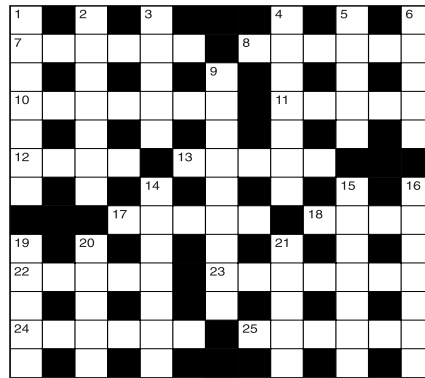
Quick Clues:

Across

- Occur (6)
- Civil (6)
- Defame (7)
- Spectacle (5)
- Dregs (4)
- Rend (5)
- Centre (5)
- Recognise (4)
- Lessen (5)
- Strain (7)
- Contend (6)
- Smoke-stack (6)

Down

- Pare (7)
- Clothing (7)
- Started (5)
- Idolize (7)
- Dull (5)
- Pier (5)
- Hopeless (9)
- Upbraid (7)
- Very old (7)
- Sparkle (5)
- Consecrate (5)
- Throng (5)
- Revoke (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

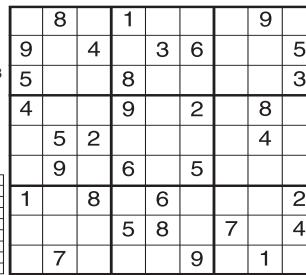
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fewer; 4 Haddock; 8 Remains; 9 Let in; 10 Kant; 11 Bestride; 13 Trap; 14 More; 16 Landfall; 17 Over; 20 Dingo; 21 Apostle; 22 Essence; 23 Roles. Down: 1 Foreknowledge; 2 Woman; 3 Rail; 4 Hostel; 5 Dilator; 6 Outline; 7 Kindergartens; 12 Half-moon; 13 Tenants; 15 Cleave; 18 Vital; 19 Door. QUICK - Across: 1 Occur; 4 Besides; 8 Traitor; 9 Gusto; 10 Free; 11 Merchant; 13 Chew; 14 Stet; 16 Continue; 17 Prop; 20 Inert; 21 Uncover; 22 Entreat; 23 Ended. Down: 1 Out-of-practice; 2 Chase; 3 Rate; 4 Barter; 5 Sagacity; 6 Distant; 7 Short-tempered; 12 Belittle; 13 Conceit; 15 August; 18 Roved; 19 Ache.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	2	8	4	9	7	1	3	6
1	6	7	5	3	8	4	9	2
3	4	9	1	6	8	5	2	7
7	5	3	8	4	6	2	1	9
6	8	2	3	1	9	7	5	4
9	1	4	5	7	2	6	8	3
8	3	6	5	2	4	7	1	9
2	1	7	9	4	1	3	6	5
4	7	5	6	3	1	8	9	2



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is O.

Gazpacho, Fasolada, Borscht, all types of soup.



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Home of Property

Detached home in desirable location

A THREE-BEDROOM detached family home in one of the most desirable areas of south Walsall is on the market based on offers around £289,950.

The property - in Greaves Avenue, Brookhouse - benefits from gas central heating and double glazing.

The accommodation briefly comprises of porch, hall, lounge, dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen, downstairs cloaks/WC, three bedrooms, a spacious family bathroom, large double garage and gardens to the front and rear.

On the ground floor is a reception hall and study area and downstairs cloaks/WC with toilet and wash hand basin.

Breakfast

The lounge, measuring 18ft 11in by 11ft 4in, has a feature chimney breast with tiled hearth and wall mounted gas fire and patio door to the rear.

There is also a dining/sitting room, 11ft 10in by 8ft 9in, with the breakfast kitchen, 11ft 9in by 11ft 4in, having a range of wall and base units with roll-edge work surfaces and inset breakfast bar, two-and-a-half bowl stainless steel sink and drainer with mixer tap, integral electric cooker and hob, plumbing for washing machine with spaces for a fridge and separate freezer.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath, separate shower cubicle, WC and wash hand basin.

To the front of the property is a driveway with off-road parking for a number of vehicles, a double garage and lawned garden. To the rear, there is a patio area with lawn, trees, shrubs and greenhouse. Call Henderson Hynes on 01922 627100.



The three-bedroom family home in Greaves Avenue, Walsall, is on the market for £289,950

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VIEWING - 1st & 2nd March at 1.00 p.m.	
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VIEWING - 1st & 2nd March at 10.00 a.m.	
92 Hawksford Crescent, Bushbury, Wolverhampton.....	£53,000/£58,000
VIEWING - 1st & 2nd March at 10.45 a.m.	
23 Sherborne Road, Bushbury, Wolverhampton.....	£73,000/£78,000
VIEWING - 1st & 2nd March at 11.30 a.m.	
25 Three Tuns Lane, Oxley, Wolverhampton.....	£63,000/£68,000
VIEWING - 1st & 2nd March at 12.15 p.m.	
56 Park Road West, Wolverhampton.....	£130,000/£140,000
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**Bloxwich
Selsdon Road**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
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In the Region of £175,950



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● Front & Rear Gardens
● Integral Garage & Driveway

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**Walsall
Leamore Lane**
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Kitchen/Diner●Study●Cloakroom W.C.
● First Floor Lounge●Family Bathroom
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● Detached Garage

In the Region of 145,000



**Bloxwich
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● Victorian Three Bedroom End-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kitchen
● Utility●Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
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● Cellar●D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

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**Bloxwich
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● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge/Diner
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● Through Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Garage & Off Road Parking

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**Walsall
Wavell Road**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
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● Fitted Kitchen
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**Bloxwich
Granttown Grove**
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Kitchen●Lounge●Fitted Bathroom
● Rear Enclosed Garden
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**Bloxwich
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**Bloxwich
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● Gardens with Off Road Parking

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**Bloxwich
Maple Street**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Extended Kitchen/Diner
● Study
● Ground Floor Bathroom
● Utility & Garage
● Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway

Offers in excess of £105,000



**Walsall
Parsons Way**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
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● Utility Room●Family Bathroom
● Gardens●D.Glazing & Central Heating
● Large Storage Unit to Rear

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**Rushall
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● Ideal for First Time Buyer
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Fitted Kitchen●Lounge/Diner
● Bathroom●D.Glazing & Electric Heating
● Gardens●Allocated Parking Spaces

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**Walsall
Spring Court, Birmingham Road**
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
● Lounge●Shower Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Private Parking
● Shared Gardens

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**Bloxwich
Margam Crescent**
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner with Patio Doors
● Family Bathroom shower over bath
● Front & Rear Gardens●Central Heating
● Double Glazing

In the Region of £95,000



**Bloxwich
Bell Tower Close**
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Open Plan Lounge/Diner●Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom●Communal Grounds
● Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating
● Allocated Parking●NO CHAIN

In the Region of £87,500



**Bloxwich
Nursery Road**
● Three Bedrooms Semi
● Lounge●Kitchen
● Family Bathroom●Downstairs W.C.
● Front and Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

In the Region of £85,000



**Willenhall
Squires Grove**
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room
● Double Glazing●Electric Heating
● Allocated Parking●Communal Grounds

In the Region of £85,000



**Bloxwich
Bagnall Street**
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Guest W.C.
● Bathroom●Conservatory
● Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway

In the Region of £85,000



**Bloxwich
Booth Street**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen
● Cloakroom W.C.●Shower Room
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking

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**Walsall
Miner Street**
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
● Farm House Style Kitchen●Bathroom
● Rear Courtyard●Enclosed Rear Garden
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

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**Willenhall
Tennyson Road**
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● Lounge●Kitchen●Lobby/Storage
● Bathroom●Separate W.C.
● Partial Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating●Gardens

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**Willenhall
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FOR SALE

CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION
Extended Four Bed Detached Property Set On A Large Plot, Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor WC, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Garage, Majority D/Glazing, C/Heating, Vehicle Access To Rear.

£149,995

CEDAR PARK RD, NEW INVENTION
.. OPEN ..
VIEWING ..
SAT 2nd MARCH 2013
..11.00AM-4.00PM..
MUST BE VIEWED

FOR SALE

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL
Spacious Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Hallway, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Guest Cloakroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating & Large Driveway *No Chain*

£227,950

FOR SALE

COPPICE LANE, WILLENHALL
Deceptively Spacious Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Large Feature Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Large Block Paved Driveway, Must View.

£179,995

FOR SALE

ALBION RD, W-HALL
Large Victorian End Terrace Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Four Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

£149,950

FOR SALE

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£147,995

FOR SALE

WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON
Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage.

£134,995

FOR SALE

KESTREL GROVE, COPPICE FARM
Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Refitted Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms Both With Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Half Garage/Store Area And Driveway.

£132,995

FOR SALE

PEACH ROAD, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Two Bed Semi, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Family Bathroom, Integral Garage, UPVC Double Glazing, Central Heating, Front And Rear Garden Must View! Canal Access.

£132,000

FOR SALE

BALMORAL DR, NEW INVENTION
Spacious Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner With Patio Doors Into Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Three Generous Bedrooms, Additional Loft Room, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Crete Print Driveway, Popular Location. NO CHAIN

£129,995

FOR SALE

OAK ROAD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner/Sitting Room, Family Bathroom, Part Double Glazing, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking. Sought After Location. NO CHAIN

£129,995

FOR SALE

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£129,995

FOR SALE

LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION
Immaculately Presented Extended Semi Detached Having Spacious Hallway, Lounge, Extended Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room, Double Glazing, Central Heating, Garage & Block Paved Driveway. Cul-De-Sac Location.

£124,995

FOR SALE

RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Semi, Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Breakfast Bar, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Sought After Location.

£124,995

FOR SALE

CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed End Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£124,995

FOR SALE

ALMOND AVE, BENTLEY
Three Bed Mid Terrace Property Having Lounge, Modern Refitted Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Cul-De-Sac Location. MUST VIEW

£109,995

FOR SALE

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£103,995

FOR SALE

HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W/C, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£95,000

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FOR SALE

ORCHARD RD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Cottage Style Two Bed Mid Terrace Having Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Master Bedroom With Fitted Furniture, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Large Rear Garden. Cul-De-Sac Location. Must View.

£92,995

FOR SALE

SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment In This Popular Location, Lounge/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking, Must View!

£89,995

FOR SALE

KING EDWARD STREET, DARLASTON
Well Presented Two Bed Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, First Floor W.C., UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Private Rear Garden.

£86,000

FOR SALE

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£84,995

FOR SALE

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£84,995

FOR SALE

REGENT ST, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed End Terrace Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Cul-De-Sac Location. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY.

£84,995

FOR SALE

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£82,995

FOR SALE

TEMPLE RD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, First Floor Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front And Rear Gardens

£79,995

FOR SALE

REMINGTON ROAD, BEECHDALE
Spacious Three Bed Mid-Town House, Two Reception, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Separate WC, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden Having Vehicle Access. Ideal Buy To Let Or First Time Buy!

£79,950 ONO

FOR SALE

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£69,995

TO LET

SLATER STREET, WILLENHALL
Recently Refurbished Mid Terrace Property Having Good Sized Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating And Off Road Parking.

£500 PCM

TO LET

JENNER ROAD, BEECHDALE
Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating & D/Glazing, Driveway, Enclosed Rear Garden And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£500 PCM

TO LET

ST ANNES RD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway, Enclosed Rear Garden With Vehicular Access.

£495 PCM

TO LET

LOWRY CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating, Front And Rear Gardens. Good Transport Links. Must View!

£475 PCM

TO LET

MILL STREET, WILLENHALL
Spacious Second Floor Two Bed Flat Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Fitted Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, C/Heating & D/Glazing Throughout And Has A Private Car Park Close To Willenhall Town Centre.

£450 PCM

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Doing**More...**

Bell Street, Wednesbury



£350,000

A seven bedroom luxury detached property on a sought after development benefitting from four bathrooms and three reception rooms.

EPC C

Sandbeds Road, Willenhall



£260,000

An exceptional traditional style four bedroom detached house situated on a exceptional plot with both front and rear access.

EPC F

Magnolia Grove, Willenhall



Offers Over £180,000

A well presented four bedroom, two bathroom detached property situated in an exclusive cul-de-sac in the Pool Hayes area of Willenhall.

EPC C

Bramble Close, Willenhall



£160,000

An extended three bedroom semi detached house situated on an exceptional corner plot with double garage. No upward chain.

EPC Awaiting

Hillbury Drive, Coppice Farm



£150,000

A "showhome" style two bedroom detached home situated on the popular "Coppice Farm" development. Benefitting from a conservatory.

EPC D

Wilkes Avenue, Walsall



£150,000

A traditional style three bedroom semi detached house situated on a sought after road in Bentley.

EPC D

Cheniston Road, Willenhall



Offers Over £140,000

An immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house with garage situated on a popular road in New Invention.

EPC C

Bute Close, Willenhall



£130,000

A two bedroom semi detached bungalow situated in a cul-de-sac location and benefitting from sunroom and garage. In need of modernisation.

EPC Awaiting

Andrew Drive, Briersleigh



Offers Over £110,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a canalside three bedroom semi detached house with unfinished double storey side and rear extension.

EPC E

Upper Sneyd Road, Essington



£110,000

A three bedroom terraced cottage situated on a prestigious road in Essington. Extensively re-fitted internally with open views to the rear.

EPC E

Hartill Street, Willenhall



£72,500

A two bedroom terraced house with driveway parking and benefitting from many upgrades and improvements by the present owner.

EPC Awaiting

The Furlong, Wednesbury



£70,000

A two bedroom top floor apartment situated in a modern style development. Well presented and offered with no upward chain.

EPC C

Archer Road, Walsall



Offers Over £65,000

An opportunity to buy a three bedroom house with a driveway, kitchen/diner, utility room, lounge, re-fitted shower room and rear garden.

EPC Awaiting

PUBLIC NOTICE



£65,000

52 PEACH ROAD WILLENHALL WV12 5UW.

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £68,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

EPC C

Grenville Close, Walsall



£62,500

A one bedroom first floor maisonette situated in a sought after cul-de-sac on the popular "Briersleigh" development.

EPC D

Circuit Close, Willenhall



£42,950

A one bedroom flat on the second floor in Willenhall Town. In need of modernisation, an ideal buy to let investment. No upward chain.

EPC D

Willenhall SKITTS ESTATE AGENTS

01902 631151
willenhall@skitts.net

IDEAL INVESTMENT



**WILLENHALL
CLOTHIER STREET**

- Spacious Victorian style end terraced property
- Two bedrooms • Upstairs bathroom • Two reception rooms
- Kitchen • Gas c/heating • Part UPVC d/glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase
- Energy Rating 'E'

£86,000 NO CHAIN

MANAGERS CHOICE



**WILLENHALL
BENTLEY LANE**

- Superb well appointed five bedroom detached family residence
- Spacious lounge, dining room • Impressive breakfast kitchen
- Utility & guest wc • En-suite shower room • Family shower room
- Family bathroom • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Pleasant rear garden, driveway • Energy Rating 'C'

WAS £200,000, NOW £192,500

IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY



**WILLENHALL
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Superb Coach House apartment
- Lounge with dining area • Impressive kitchen
- Two excellent size bedrooms • Bathroom • Gas central heating
- Double glazing • Gym/office/converted garage • Parking
- Energy Rating 'B'

£110,500 NO CHAIN

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151



**COPPICE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE**

- Superb extended five bedroom modern detached property
- Two reception rooms • Office/occasional bed 6
- Conservatory • Breakfast kitchen
- En-suite shower room • Excellent fitted kitchen
- Energy Rating 'C'

WAS £289,950, NOW £279,950 OFFERS



**NEW INVENTION
GLAMIS ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms • Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Conservatory • Fitted kitchen
- Bedroom with shower • 28ft side garage
- Established garden • Energy Rating 'C'

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £160,000



**SHORT HEATH
POLES LANE**

- Much improved three bedroom detached bungalow
- Lounge • Superb breakfast kitchen, Utility
- Double glazing, gas central heating
- Spacious bathroom • Garage & driveway
- Established rear garden • Energy Rating 'E'

£195,000



**COPPICE FARM
LOCHALSH GROVE**

- Modern style detached family residence
- Four bedrooms • En-suite shower room
- Lounge & dining rooms • Breakfast kitchen & downstairs wc
- Garage & off road parking • Generous rear garden
- Gas central heating • Energy Performance Rating 'D'

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £189,995



**NEW INVENTION
ESSINGTON ROAD**

- Brand new development of two detached bungalows
- Two bedrooms and Fitted Bathroom
- Rear garden • Garage in Separate Block
- Spacious Living Room & Dining Area • Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed Windows

£169,995 PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED



**SHORT HEATH
HUNTS LANE**

- Superbly presented detached property
- Three good size bedrooms • Spacious lounge
- Well appointed dining kitchen • Luxury bathroom
- Superb en-suite shower room • Double glazing, gas central heating
- Driveway, rear garden • Energy Rating 'C'

£169,950 MUST BE VIEWED



**WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD**

- Superb spacious modern town house
- Three bedrooms, two with en-suites
- Gas c/heating, UPVC d/glazing • Lounge/occasional bedroom four
- UPVC d/glazed conservatory • Living room, dining kitchen & bakery
- Pleasant rear garden • Energy Rating 'C'

£154,995 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
BARMOUTH CLOSE**

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms • Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows • Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen • Upstairs bathroom • Front and rear gardens
- Excellent potential to improve • Energy Rating 'D'

WAS £120,000, NOW £118,500



**SUMMER HAYES
FENN RISE**

- Spacious link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms • Dining room
- Majority triple glazing, gas central heating
- 32ft double height garage, rear garden • Energy Rating 'D'

WAS £154,950, NOW £150,000



**SNEYD PARK
CEDAR PARK ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms • Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- Lounge and dining rooms • Fitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom with white suite
- Garage/corral • Energy Rating 'D'

£139,950



**SUMMER HAYES
FARBROOK WAY**

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms • Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazing • Lounge & fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower • 28ft side garage, off road parking
- Attractive rear garden • Energy Rating 'D'

£130,000 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD**

- Modern style and town house
- Two bedrooms • Lounge • Dining Kitchen
- Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Good size rear garden • Driveway to the fore
- Energy Rating 'C'

£125,000



**WILLENHALL
HILL ROAD**

- Much improved extended three bedroom property
- Lounge and extended dining room • Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower • Garage and block paved driveway
- Gas central heating • UPVC double glazed windows
- Viewing recommended • Energy Rating 'C'

£115,000



**DARLASTON
PINFOLD STREET**

- Lovely one bedroom ground floor flat in convenient location
- Lounge with feature fireplace • Fitted kitchen
- Fitted shower room with walk-in bath • Communal gardens & parking
- Gas central heating system • UPVC double glazed windows
- Internal viewing recommended • Energy Rating 'D'

£59,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**BENTLEY, WALSALL
CUNNINGHAM ROAD**

- Pleasant extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms • Gas c/heating system • UPVC d/glazed windows
- Spacious 19ft through lounge • Extended sun room
- Breakfast kitchen, utility room • Upstairs shower room
- Lovely established rear garden • Energy Rating 'D'

£110,000 OFFERS



**HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL
FAWLEY CLOSE**

- Pleasant improved modern style semi
- Two bedrooms • Gas c/heating • UPVC d/glazed windows
- Lounge • Fitted bathroom with shower
- Carpet with double doors
- Attractive enclosed rear garden • Energy Rating 'C'

£103,000



**WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- Excellent modern style semi
- Planning permission granted for side extension
- Two bedrooms • UPVC double glazed windows
- Fitted bathroom with shower • Pleasant 13ft front lounge
- Enclosed rear garden • Energy Rating 'D'

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £96,000



**WALSALL
MOORSIDE GARDENS**

- Pleasant spacious first floor flat
- Two bedrooms • Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- 14ft lounge • Well equipped fitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom with shower & separate wc
- Communal gardens & outside store • Energy Rating 'C'

£78,950 OFFERS

WANTED

MR W WANTS A TWO BED FLAT OFF STROUD AVENUE UP TO £70,000

WANTED

MR S WANTS A FOUR BEDROOM BUNGALOW IN COPPICE FARM OR SUMMER HAYES AREA

WANTED

MRS G IS LOOKING FOR A THREE BEDROOM BUNGALOW ON SUMMER HAYES UP TO £165,000

WANTED

MR & MRS P WOULD LIKE A FOUR BED DETACHED ON HONEYBOURNE WAY

WANTED

MR/S T ARE LOOKING FOR TWO BEDROOM MINIMUM HOUSE IN WILLENHALL OR BENTLEY UP TO £95,000

WANTED

MR/S F WOULD LIKE A TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW IN SHORT HEATH UP TO £150,000

WANTED

MR D IS LOOKING FOR A THREE BEDROOM SEMI UP TO £145,000 ON LUCKNOW ROAD OR SURROUNDING

WANTED

MRS H WOULD LIKE A TWO BEDROOM MINIMUM PROPERTY BY THE WOODLANDS SCHOOL UP TO £160,000

WANTED

MR/S V ARE LOOKING FOR A 3/4 BEDROOM PROPERTY ON COPPICE FARM UP TO £220,000

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PRICE REDUCTION



HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL
HIGH ROAD

- Spacious four bedroom modern style detached residence
- Lounge & dining room • Fitted breakfast kitchen
- En-suite shower room • Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows • Block paved driveway
- Energy Efficiency Rating 'C'

WAS £185,000 NOW £179,000

FEATURE PROPERTY



WILLENHALL
VICTORIA COURT, GRANVILLE STREET

- Superbly appointed ground floor corner apartment
- Two bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobes
- Open plan lounge/dining kitchen • Spacious bathroom
- Allocated parking space with security gates
- Double glazing • Central heating • Energy Rating 'C'

£87,500 NO CHAIN

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



DARLASTON
MEMORY LANE

- Well presented modern style semi detached property
- Lounge • Dining kitchen • Refitted bathroom
- Two bedrooms • Storage heating • Double glazing
- 23ft garage, garden to the rear
- Energy Rating 'D'

£99,950

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151



WILLENHALL
VALE ROAD

- Superb well presented modern detached residence
- Four bedrooms • Two reception rooms • Downstairs wc
- Breakfast kitchen • Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Free en-suite • Family bathroom • Rear garden
- Garage and driveway • Energy Rating 'B'

£250,000



WILLENHALL
COLLIERS CLOSE

- Impressive extended modern detached bungalow
- Lounge and dining room • Superb orangery/sitting room
- Refitted kitchen • Four bedrooms • Garage & driveway
- Pleasant rear garden • Gas central heating & double glazing
- Family bathroom • Luxury en-suite shower room • Energy Rating 'D'

£205,000



WILLENHALL
COPPICE FARM
GRAZEBROOK CLOSE

- Extended modern style detached residence
- Three large double bedrooms • Lounge
- Refitted dining kitchen • Family bathroom
- Double glazing • Gas central heating • Garage & driveway
- Utility • Rear garden • Energy Rating 'B'

£169,950



WILLENHALL
HILLCREST GARDENS

- Much improved extended modern style semi detached property
- Three good sized bedrooms • Lounge and dining room
- Superb extended refitted kitchen • Luxury shower room
- Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Garage and carport • Rear garden • Energy Rating 'B'

£149,950 VIEWING RECOMMENDED



WILLENHALL
BILOWAYS LANE

- Extended traditional semi detached property
- Three bedrooms • Refitted bathroom • Extended lounge
- Dining room • Extended kitchen • Double glazing
- Gas central heating • Rear garden • Driveway
- Energy Rating 'B'

£125,000



NEW INVENTION
MOXHALL CLOSE

- Well presented and modern property
- Three bedrooms • Lounge • Spacious dining kitchen
- Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Bathroom • Rear garden and summer house/playroom
- Energy Rating 'B'

£122,950



WILLENHALL
ST ANNES ROAD

- Superb and much improved extended and terraced property
- Two reception rooms • Excellent spacious dining kitchen
- Summer house/gym • Three bedrooms • Jute room • Large bathroom
- Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Garage • Energy Rating 'B'

£120,000



WILLENHALL
ESSINGTON ROAD

- Much improved semi detached property
- Two double bedrooms • Large lounge • Spacious dining kitchen
- Luxury bathroom • Box room/study • Double glazing
- Gas central heating • Very large rear garden
- Driveway • Energy Rating 'B'

£105,000 NO CHAIN



NEW INVENTION
JONES ROAD

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Lounge and dining room • Fitted kitchen
- Two good sized bedrooms • Refitted bathroom
- Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Front and rear gardens • Energy Rating 'B'

£95,000



WILLENHALL
VICTORIA STREET

- Much Improved Period Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms • 2 Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen • Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain • Energy Rating 'B'

£89,950



WILLENHALL
RUSSELL STREET

- Impressive well presented recently built ground floor apartment
- Spacious lounge • Fitted kitchen
- Double bedroom • Luxury bathroom
- Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Allocated parking space • Energy Rating 'B'

£69,950



WILLENHALL
BILSTON ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Gas central heating, double glazing • Lounge • Dining room
- Refitted kitchen • Four bedrooms, three with fitted wardrobes
- Potential to extend to rear (subject to planning)
- Off road parking • Energy Rating 'E'

WAS £175,000 NOW £169,950



WILLENHALL
ALBION STREET

- Superb and modern property
- Spacious lounge • Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Garage, driveway • Viewing recommended
- Energy Rating 'B'

£134,995 NO CHAIN



NEW INVENTION
BALMORAL DRIVE

- Pleasant three bedroom semi detached property
- Gas central heating • Majority UPVC double glazing
- Through lounge/dining room • Refitted kitchen
- Store room/playroom • Rear garden with timber decked patio
- Energy Rating 'D'

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £125,000



BENTLEY
ATTLIE ROAD

- Extended semi detached property
- Three 1st floor bedrooms • Ground floor extended bedroom four
- 19ft through lounge • Downstairs bedroom with wc
- Fitted kitchen & adjacent lobby • Pleasant rear garden
- Gas central heating, part UPVC double glazed windows • Energy Rating 'D'

£125,000



WILLENHALL
REGENT STREET

- Period and modern property
- Two reception rooms • Kitchen & breakfast area/utility
- Two bedrooms, one with attic area • Bathroom
- Rear garden • Double glazing, gas central heating
- Energy Rating 'C'

NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL
TYLER ROAD

- Improved traditional style mid terraced property
- Lounge • Refitted dining kitchen
- Downstairs wc • Three bedrooms
- Double glazing, gas central heating
- Driveway • Rear garden • Energy Rating 'D'

£82,000 NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL
COTSWOLD GROVE

- Ground floor flat in popular location
- Over 55's development • Lounge, Kitchen
- One bedroom • Bathroom
- Double glazing, storage heating
- No Chain • Energy Rating 'E'

£49,950 for 70% shared ownership

ESSINGTON

- Four bedroom extended modern detached residence
- UPVC double glazed conservatory • Two reception rooms
- En-suite shower room • Substantial garage/outbuilding
- NOW £299,950**

COPPICE FARM

- Pleasantly appointed modern style link detached
- Three bedrooms • UPVC double glazing • Gas central heating
- £140,000**

NEW INVENTION

- Pleasant one bedroom modern style semi
- En-suite bathroom with shower
- Lounge & separate dining/sun room
- £87,950 OFFERS**

WILLENHALL

- Spacious traditional detached property
- Two reception rooms • Breakfast kitchen/conservatory
- Three bedrooms • Large rear garden with workshop/gym
- WAS £190,000, NOW £185,000 NO CHAIN**

SHORT HEATH

- Extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms • Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows • Two reception rooms
- £120,000 OFFERS**

WILLENHALL

- Three bedroom mid terraced property
- D/Glazing • Gas c/heating • Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen • Ground floor bathroom
- Was £94,950, NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN**

NEW INVENTION

- Dormer style two/three bedroom link detached bungalow
- Two reception rooms • Upstairs bathroom
- Gas central heating • Double glazing • 30ft side garage
- £159,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**

WILLENHALL

- Pleasantly appointed modern style end town house
- Two bedrooms • Gas c/heating
- UPVC d/glazed windows • UPVC d/glazed conservatory
- £113,000 OFFERS**

WILLENHALL

- Spacious end terraced property
- Two bedrooms • Gas c/heating
- Part UPVC d/glazed windows • Two reception rooms
- OFFERS OVER £80,000 IDEAL FIRST TIME**

SO FAR IN 2013, SKITTS ESTATE AGENTS HAVE AGREED AN EXCELLENT LEVEL OF SALES. WE URGENTLY REQUIRE NEW PROPERTIES.

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Motoring



A Toyota Racing Development version of the much admired GT86 will prove popular with fans

Japanese marque confirms plans for a 'special' GT86

AN official Toyota Racing Development (TRD) version of the much-admired GT86 sports coupe has been confirmed by the Japanese firm.

Just 250 examples of the striking new UK-specific model will be built, focusing on styling improvements to create a limited-run halo model.

Among the upgrades are new 18in alloy wheels, deeper front and side skirts, a rear bumper spoiler and a rear diffuser flanked by a quad-exit 'fast-response' exhaust system.

TRD-branded details complete the package. According to Toyota, "the focus is on sports styling, but not at the cost of the GT86's essential performance and handling character."

Although Toyota claims no performance change, the GT86 TRD records slightly worse fuel economy than the standard car. Combined fuel economy is down from 36.2mpg to 34.9mpg, with emissions up from 181g/km to 192g/km.

This moves the GT86 TRD up by one road tax band, adding £135 in the first year, followed by £35 extra per year after.

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Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Rapid range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 50.4 (5.6), Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) - 76.3 (3.7), Combined 47.9 (5.9) - 64.2 (4.4). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA Rapid range 137 - 114 g/km.



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The new three-door Seat Leon SC offers a choice of petrol and diesel engines



Rear seating in the new Seat hatchback



With its sporty looks the SC will be officially unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show

Three-door Seat Leon is unveiled

THE wraps have been taken off the new three-door Seat Leon SC, revealing a shorter wheelbase and a different side profile to differentiate it from the five-door.

Reducing the wheelbase by 35mm makes the SC more agile than the five-door, while a more steeply raked rear windscreen gives it a more aggressive silhouette.

The car is, on paper, otherwise much the same as the existing Leon hatchback. It shares the same range of petrol and diesel engines, and the wheelbase change hasn't affected boot space or rear headroom – although legroom in the back has decreased slightly.

"We have given the three-door Leon SC a highly distinctive character – just deleting two doors would not have been enough for us," says Alejandro Mesonero-Romanos, head of Seat design.

"That is why we opted for the shorter wheelbase – although it is only 35mm, the visual effect is very powerful. The result is a big difference in the expression of dynamics."

The turbocharged petrol engine range starts with the 104bhp 1.2 TSI with a 138bhp 1.4 and a 177bhp 1.8 above it. In the way of diesels, there are 1.6-litre and 2.0-litre choices, with the 104bhp 1.6 TDI pushing out 99g/km of CO₂ and the arguably more impressive 2.0-litre with 148bhp emits just 106g/km.

"With its slightly shortened wheelbase, the Leon SC is the sportiest and most emotional member of the Leon family," says Dr Matthias Rabe, vice-president of research and development at Seat.

"It has the feel of a sports coupe, yet boasts an astonishing degree of functionality."

The usual array of trim levels will be made available, so the SC can be ordered in S, SE and FR spec, with the latter having a different set of bumpers that does the Leon's overall look better justice.

Set to be officially unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show, the order books are expected to open shortly afterwards.



The Leon will be available in various trim levels

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Motoring

It's a winter win for Continental tyres in road test

CONTINENTAL'S new ContiWinterContact TS850 winter tyre has taken top spot in this year's winter tyre test from the UK's monthly title *evo*.

For its second year, the *evo* winter tyre test celebrates the best of the best in the winter tyre market, revealing the most inspirational must-have products for the cold season.

The awards highlight exceptional performance, quality, safety, desirability and value alongside the magazine's annual tyre tests. They are seen within the motoring industry as a stamp of approval offering motoring enthusiasts confidence when looking for their next winter tyre purchase.

The *evo* winter tyre test pitted the Continental ContiWinterContact TS850 against seven competitor winter and all-season tyres in size 205/55R16. The awards recognised the ContiWinterContact TS850 across a broad spectrum, ranging from snow tests to wet braking and aquaplaning.

Stable

evo said: "The Continental ContiWinterContact TS850 is responsive, stable and predictable in all scenarios. Winter tyres come no more capable or reassuring than this."

Peter Robb, brand manager at Continental said: "We are delighted to have been commended by *evo* yet again. The ContiWinterContact TS850 has taken the winter market by storm. In a string of tyre tests in Europe, the tyre has consistently beaten the best to take top spot."

The ContiWinterContact TS850, for medium-sized cars, has a wealth of innovative technical features which lead to this exceptional performance. This means that the tyre offers motorists even better grip on wintry roads, as well as shorter braking distances in the wet, extended mileage and a further reduction on rolling resistance over its predecessor. This is not the first time that Continental's winter tyres have been recognised by top motoring titles.

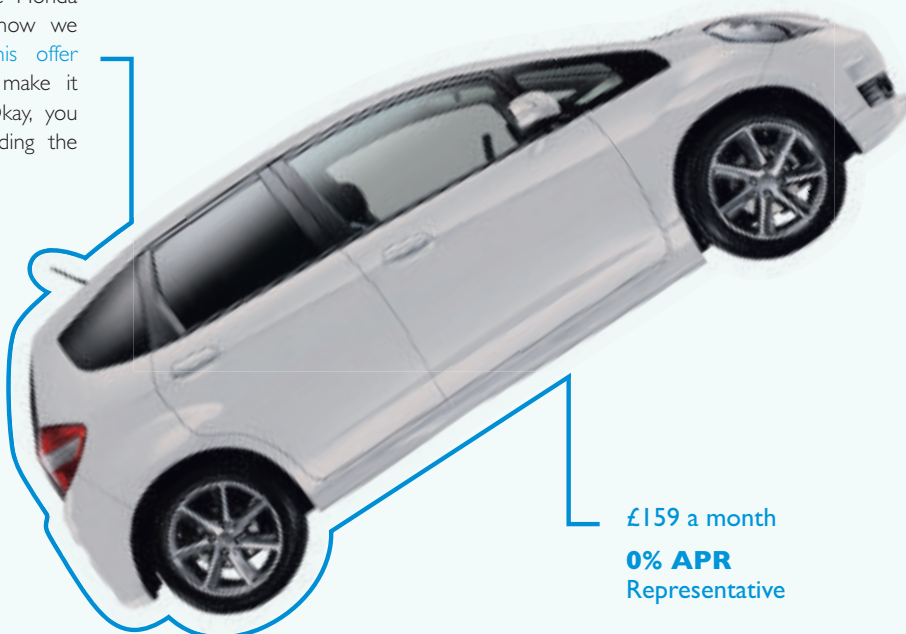


Award winner – ContiWinterContact TS850

The ContiWinterContact TS830P, the winter tyre for performance vehicles, was awarded best winter tyre in the 2012 Auto Express Product Awards.

● For more information on Continental's complete range, visit www.continental-tyres.co.uk

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £15,000 On The Road including pearl paint. Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz Si registrations from 2 January 2013 to 31 March 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): £159 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.4 Si Manual in metallic/pearl paint with 3 years' 0% APR with 29% deposit. Annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

Motoring



Alfa Romeo's long-awaited sports car, the 4C, will debut at Geneva Motor Show

Alfa Romeo sports car is set to deliver huge performance

PICTURES of the Alfa Romeo 4C have been released ahead of the car's official unveiling at the Geneva Motor Show.

The tiny sports car is less than 4m long – about the same as a Ford Fiesta – but 2m wide and just 1.18m tall for cornering stability.

It promises huge performance from a 1.75-litre turbocharged all-aluminium petrol engine, with a power-to-weight ratio claimed to be more than

250bhp per tonne. The engine is an evolution of the unit already seen in the Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde. To make sure it meets the highest expectations, the car has been co-developed by Maserati alongside engineers from Alfa.

According to a statement, Alfa has designed a "revolutionary scavenging control system" that apparently reduces turbo lag to almost zero.

Putting the power to the road through the rear wheels via a twin-

clutch TCT gearbox with paddle-shift functionality, the mid-engined 'compact supercar' has a chassis made entirely of carbon, which acts as an integral load-bearing structural feature.

Fitted with two bucket seats and Alfa Romeo's DNA drive select switch, with an additional 'Race' mode, the 4C is intended to be easy to drive when required but dynamically brilliant at the flick of a switch.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Zafira Exclusiv 1.7CDTi (110PS) Manual: Urban: 46.3 (6.1), Extra-urban: 62.8 (4.5), Combined: 55.4 (5.1). CO₂ emissions 134g/km.

Vehicle shown is for illustrative purposes only, and may be fitted with optional equipment. Brilliant, metallic or pearlescent paint and parking distance sensors provided at no additional cost. Under the Motability Contract Hire Scheme a driver can get the use of a brand new Zafira Exclusiv 1.7CDTi (110PS) Manual from Nil Advance Payment. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Offer valid from 1 January 2013 – 31 March 2013. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, which will be taken in lieu of the four weekly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. All information correct at time of going to press.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

Available on selected models only, at participating retailers. Offer will apply to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall Retailer for details. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer available on orders or registrations before 2 April 2013. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. *Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution where applicable.

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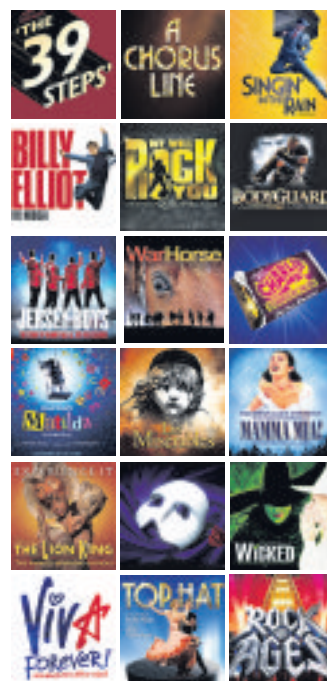
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public & legal notices

THOMAS GEORGE REYNOLDS (Deceased)
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 384 Birmingham Road Walsall West Midlands WS5 3NX, who died on 27/09/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 10/05/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
 Aztec 650 Aztec West
 Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
 (Ref: AAN/3024921P/Reynolds) T372274

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
 The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council.
 Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning
 Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.
 Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.
 Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

12/0707/EL
 Access Complete Properties Developments Ltd
 Development of 5 detached 2 bed starter dwellings.
 AT: SITE OF FORMER 7 PAULS COPPICE, BROWNHILLS, WS8 7DE

13/0203/FL
 S.S. Khara
 Single storey rear extension, external staircase and convert former public house to 4 or 5 no shops and new shop fronts at ground floor.
 AT: OLD KINGS ARMS PH., WEST BROMWICH STREET, WALSALL, WS1 4BW

13/0191/EL
 Diffusion
 POR: New shop front.
 AT: 9-11 PARK STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1LY

13/0201/LB
 Margaret Lorn
 Listed Building Consent: Provision of new breathable wall, floor and ceiling linings together with the provision of heritage style timber windows to existing bay window.
 AT: 2 VICTORIA TERRACE, WALSALL, WS4 2DA

13/0833/WA
 Skips Kings
 Rectification: Use as non-hazardous waste transfer station (renewal of 08/1590/FL), and proposed erection of building for sorting waste.
 AT: FORMER HANSON AGGREGATES LTD, LEAMORE LANE, WALSALL, WS2 7DE

13/0169/FL
 The Cedars Healthcare
 Removal of condition 2a and 2b on planning approval 12/1097/FL: lighting.
 AT: CEDAR FALLS, 83-89 BESCOT ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 9DG

13/0150/PT
 Single BT Telecommunication DSLAM Cabinet (Dimensions 800mm x 1100mm high and 450mm) painted green.
 AT: OPPOSITE 4 NORTON ROAD, PELSALL, WS3 4QN

13/0144/FL
 Mr Richard Gray
 Change of use to Transport Museum (Use Class D1)
 AT: LIFECARE HOSPITAL SUPPLIES LTD, SHENSTONE DRIVE, WALSALL, WS9 8TP

13/0137/EL
 Amendments to planning permissions 10/0763/FL and 11/1364/FL relating to erection of 251 dwellings amending details of phasing and location of affordable housing site.
 AT: FORMER SITE OF WALSALL DEPOT, NORFOLK PLACE, WALSALL, WS2 0DS

13/0177/RM
 Galliford Try Construction and Sanctuary Housing
 Reserved matters submission to 12/0553/OL for 36 houses with amended layout and house types and consideration of landscaping.
 AT: FORMER CO-OP DAIRY, MIDLAND ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 4DX

13/0157/PT
 BT PLC
 Single BT Telecommunication DSLAM Cabinet (dimensions 1200mm x 1600mm high and 450mm) painted green.
 AT: PROPOSED BT CABINET AT OLD TOWN LANE S/O 140 OLD TOWN LANE, WALSALL, WS3 4LZ

13/0151/PT
 BT PLC
 Single BT Telecommunication DSLAM Cabinet (Dimensions 1200mm x 1600mm High and 450mm) Painted Green
 AT: Proposed BT Cabinet Opposite James House, Stackhouse Drive, Walsall, WS3 4DX

13/0148/EL
 Mr Zac Finney
 Variation of conditions 1 & 2 of planning approval 06/1386/FL/E1 to remove reference to 4 years and allow a permanent permission for a residential gypsy caravan site.
 AT: LAND AT THE REAR OF 40-54 CARBRIDGE LANE, WALSALL, WS4 1SB

13/0183/FL
 Amber Taverns LTD
 Removal of existing concealed roof to rear of property and formation of new glazed courtyard.
 AT: The Variety, 27 Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DA
 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

13/0189/CC
 Amber Taverns LTD
 Removal of existing concealed roof
 AT: The Variety, 27 Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DA

13/0182/PT
 Applicant: Mrs Pauline Bird
 Ground floor side extension.
 AT: 14 LAWSON CLOSE, ALDRIDGE, WS9 0RX
 This application relates to development affecting the setting of a public footpath

13/0193/EL
 Mr Zubair Ahmed
 Rear single storey extension, porch extension and conversion of garage into room.
 AT: 9A GLEBE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 3NX

13/0227/FL
 Asda Stores Ltd
 POR: Variation of condition 36 of planning permission 04/0431/FL/W2 to alter approved car park operations and management.
 AT: ASDA ST. MATTHEWS SUPERSTORE, GEORGE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1RS

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JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTm interesting appreciative, independent man for Itr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803

JULIE 30's female looking for some much needed tic with similar laidback male. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc, call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400487

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, wltm similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400793

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTm nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401837

JULIE cute blonde blue eyed flirtie female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with other confident, single, 40-45yrs with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401833

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTm up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, adult fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401591

TRACY slim blue eyed blonde, likes nights out, travel, commitment phobic, looking for understanding professional male for mutually convenient meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401579

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399523

SARA young fun and sick of being single, trendy, well presented, very attractive, loves good food/wine, keeping fit, fast cars, looking to fall in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401543

I'm Carol 39, slim, blonde with legs 11, passionate by nature, loves tic and looking for similar solvent male who enjoys life and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401467

CHANTELLE 40yr old slim sensual confident female who loves to party, seeking older male for fun dates without complications. Any age/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400465

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400451

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400263

CLARE 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTm genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400199

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

PAULA 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefit! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, caring, OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395779

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, sports, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

ANGELA green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399633

LISA attractive, well maintained 25yr old student looking for older male for discreet dates. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399619

Hi I'm Sharon an outgoing single mom looking to find love so thought I would give this a go, please don't make me regret it, someone call me pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399197

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

SHARON slim blonde blue eyed outgoing female looking for uncomplicated meets and adult companionship, like what you hear? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400119

CLARE 38, single mom, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

I'M Heather I love to cook, eat in/out, share a nice fryt glass of wine or two with good company and am eager to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399715

NICKY lonely 39yr old single mom looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399189

DEBBIE sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box

Steelmen new-boys help keep them top

Bilston Town 3 Mahal 1
BILSTON consolidated their place at the top of West Midlands Division One against a battling Mahal.

They featured new signings Stan Mugisha and Simon Rowley in their starting XI, and Mugisha always looked a danger up front.

The first chance fell to him but his shot was just wide as Bilston started to dominate possession and take control, with Nick Turton, John Griffiths and Mugisha again going close.

Mugisha's run and cross set up Turton to open the Steelmen's account before half-time.

Mahal went on the attack from the restart and an injury to Town keeper Ben Astley saw Karl Frankham replace him in goal.

Mahal equalised as a cross from the right was met with a header into the top corner.

However, four minutes later, a corner fell to Rhys Hall, and he blasted an unstoppable shot home to restore the Steelmen's lead.

The match was put beyond doubt as Griffiths rose above a packed defence to head home Bilston's third from a corner.

The 10 men battle back to take win

Sporting Khalsa 2 Cradley Town 1

KHALSA came from a goal down to take all three West Midlands Premier points, despite playing with 10 men for most of the game.

In the 15th minute Cradley striker Chris Blade beat Khalsa keeper Liam Stanton but Joshua Jones handballed on the line.

Jones was sent off and Will Tibbetts scored from the spot.

Khalsa re-organised, got back in the game and went close twice before half-time.

The second half saw Khalsa look livelier up front with the introduction of Reece Cotterill and Nicky Campbell.

The equaliser came in the 75th minute as Scott Sandland beat two defenders to shoot past Mathew Jones.

The keeper made fine saves from Cotterill, Jason Woods and Ben Love but in the last minute Sandland crossed for Calum Cooper to head the winner.



Swimmer Paul Bates

Paul splashes out for county titles hat-trick

WALSALL swimmer Paul Bates started 2013 with a fine set of results at the ASA Staffordshire Masters county championships held at Wolverhampton's Central Baths.

Bates, part of the Perry Beeches Masters team, won county titles in 200m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 100m backstroke. He also took silver in the 200m individual medley.

Bates, whose 2012 campaign in the pool, open water and English Channel brought him the Walsall Mayor's civic award for outstanding sporting achievement, hopes his county success is just the start. He plans a double swim of the Channel and a solo swim of Windermere in the Lake District.

His next big effort will be the Swim for Heroes event in London in April where the aim is to swim 24 miles in as many hours. Bates also set up a Swim for Your Heart event to support the global drive for heart awareness - www.swimforyourheartfeb14.com



Motocross rider Ben Wilkinson in action

Ben backed for racing in 2013

WALSALL motocross rider Ben Wilkinson has secured renewed backing for this year's racing after a successful 2012 campaign.

He used a Yamaha YZF 250 last year, but now has a Yamaha 450 F fuel injection machine. He is again backed by Sutton Codfield Training (SCT), specialising in teaching NVQs including business management, health and social care and key skills.

Wilkinson had numerous top-three places in the AMCA motocross season and completed the Weston Beach Race in the top 200. He enjoyed good results at the Cotswold Enduro Rock Oil Hare and Hound championship rounds and looks to build on his showings in 2013.

Lockmen left adrift after Owls hit target

Bartley Green 2 Willenhall 0

WILLENHALL were made to pay for a lack of ruthlessness at both ends of the pitch as a hard-working performance went unrewarded in the West Midlands Premier.

Jake Morgan was in from a Ricky Nicholls cross before firing over on seven minutes, then Liam Rogers forced Owls' keeper Aaron Gayle to save at full stretch.

A first foray into Willenhall's penalty area on 26 minutes saw Callum Haynes needlessly pull down Courtney Charles, and he got up to fire home from the spot.

Haynes headed over before Gayle was out quickly to block Morris with his legs. Morgan's follow-up was blocked by a defender.

Haynes again headed over before half-time substitute Martin Hill fired at Gayle.

The keeper clawed away Nicholl's chip after he dribbled through three tackles.

Bartley Green took control as runs from Danny Butler, Dennis Pickett and Charles caused problems before Charles made the game safe on 71 minutes, firing home after a superb run through the defence.

Substitute Jamie Siviter had two shots blocked and the Lockmen sought a way back into the game but some brave defending denied Willenhall even a consolation.

The result leaves Willenhall third from bottom of the table and seven points off Bartley Green, who are one place above.

Double hit undoes all for ladies

Bloxwich 0 Lichfield 2

BLOXWICH ladies hockey seconds played well but were undone by two well-executed first-half goals.

Bloxwich, improving on last week's performance in the loss to Stone, gave Lichfield a good game.

Passing and teamwork were much in evidence and produced several chances at the Lichfield end with near-misses, excellent saves and shots hitting the post.

At the other end, goalkeeper Zoe Webb was her side's saviour of the match for some super saves.

But even Webb was unable to keep out two clinical strikes which decided the game.

Frustrated Uwe fails to respect Saddlers

Brentford 0 Walsall 0

RESPECT is hard to come by but, ultimately, you get what you deserve.

After just one defeat in 2013, Walsall are gaining admiration - yet it's unlikely to be found in west London, writes *Nick Mashiter*.

Saturday's 0-0 draw at Brentford was another point proved, but Uwe Rosler's post-match comments were laced with the kind of dismissal Dean Smith is keen to stop as the Bees boss gave Saddlers little credit.

Quotes of "Against teams like this we need to play with a higher tempo" and "Walsall came here to slow the game down and we didn't do anything about it" highlight his frustration.

Two years ago, as Saddlers were relegation fodder, that may have cut some ice, just. But not now.

There is still a sense, as Smith has admitted, that the Saddlers remain viewed as easy pickings, perennial strugglers. But Walsall are a changed team - a changed club - and their progression must be recognised.

Progress

Last season they got to 50 points only on the final day of the season, but have already surpassed that total this term.

Even the Great Escape of 2010-11, full of euphoria and suspense, yielded only 48 and it is a measure of their progress that they are on course for the best season in three years.

That they still have play-off ambitions is a further testament to the change heading into the final two months of the season.

A draw did little to enhance either team's promotion hopes, though, and with the Saddlers nine points off the top six their challenge hinges on the next couple of weeks.

Ninth place has already exceeded pre-season expectations. A play-off charge would be equally unexpected but still remains a possibility, even if an outside one.

It remains the team's lofty ambition with



Walsall's Febian Brandy battles with two Brentford rivals



A rueful Andy Butler after his effort goes off-target at Griffin Park

Andy Taylor insisting they have moved on from the 50-point target and are aiming for 74 to sneak into the play-offs.

A win at Carlisle and revenge against Shrewsbury on Saturday would keep hopes alive. Failure to gain victory and thoughts may drift to next season and the excitement that could bring should Smith retain most of his developing team.

The foundations are already being laid with new deals - and with debutant Ben George, the Saddlers can add another one off the conveyor belt.

The 19-year-old right-back was drafted in after injuries to Ben Purkiss, James Chambers and Richard Taundry.

Comfortable in possession and unflinching off it, George helped earn a point with

a crucial clearance off the line from Marcello Trotta. His development will be handled with care but there was enough to suggest Smith - who managed him in the youth team - will have no concern about throwing him in at the deep end again.

George was one of three changes as James Baxendale was recalled in place of Craig Westcarr and Aaron McCarey started after returning on loan from Wolves.

Walsall began sharply; Andy Butler's header was hastily hacked off the line by Adam Forshaw inside two minutes but, despite Will Grigg's excellent hold-up play, Walsall lacked attacking bite in the first half.

Instead the Bees wasted their best openings as they pushed the Saddlers onto the

ropes. First McCarey made a smart low stop from Trotta and then turned Clayton Donaldson's looping cross over before he was beaten by Taylor's slice, only for the ball to come back off the post.

But the Saddlers held firm and when George cleared Trotta's shot off the line a minute before the break, their threat disappeared. Walsall began to take control; Taylor drilled wide after a quick free-kick and Simon Moore denied Baxendale before turning away Grigg's snap-shot on the hour.

But from then on, both teams struggled to break free of the defensive shackles and only Nicky Featherstone's mis-directed injury-time effort threatened to break the deadlock.

Point earned, respect gained.

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In the saddle
Motocross ace gets
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Pics keep drive for play-offs on track

Marine 1 Rushall Olympic 1

A HARD-FOUGHT draw against a team two places above in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier table kept up Rushall's play-off drive.

Both sides defended well as a draw was a fair result and kept the Pics seventh, **writes Craig Turnbull.**

There were few chances in the first half but Rushall's Andre Landell picked up a loose defensive header, turned Phil Ojapah and tested Marine keeper Ryan McMahon.

Michael Ordish's corner for Marine caused a scramble in the box with John Shaw going wide.

Will Jones gave Marine the lead after 37 minutes.

Matt Harris fired in a cross and, with Pics keeper Chris Gemmell in no-man's land, Jones headed into an empty net.

The second half was short on clear chances, but Ahmed Obeng almost equalised for Pics soon after the break.

Jon Haynes' cross was controlled brilliantly by top scorer Dave Walker, who fed Obeng to net from 15 yards. Unfortunately for Rushall, the strike was ruled out for offside.

Rushall did, however, get their equaliser after 77 minutes. Josh Craddock's ball over the top of the defence played in Obeng and the striker raced through on goal, only to be hacked down by Ojapah.

Obeng stepped up to take the resulting penalty and sent the ball straight down the middle.

Marine almost won it when Liam Rice's free-kick was met by an unmarked Ojapah but he placed his header inches over the bar.

Marine: McMahon, Dowling, Shaw, Ojapah, Grannon, Lawton, Harris (Rice 73), Dixon (Burton 63), Jones, Rogan, Ordish. **Subs not used:** Girvan, Brown, Williams.

Rushall Olympic: Gemmell, K Haynes, J Haynes, Tolley, Daniel (Stephens 69), Smith, Palmer, Craddock, Walker (Islam 58), Obeng, Landell (Edmunds 58). **Subs not used:** Beckett, Thompson.

Jones so keen to be a lively Imp

WALSALL starlet Jake Jones is out to prove his worth to boss Dean Smith after extending his loan at Lincoln.

The winger will stay at the managerless Blue Square Bet Premier side until the end of the season.

Jones said: "I know the gaffer (Smith) is keeping close tabs on me, so I want to prove what I can do and at the same time help Lincoln move in the right direction."

Frozen pitch fixture moved

WALSALL'S rugby clash at home to Northwich was frozen off.

The Midlands One West clash has been moved to mid-March and the Staffordshire Cup semi-final against Lichfield will be played on a Wednesday evening at the end of the month.

Walsall face a tough test on Saturday away to promotion challengers Worcester Wanderers.



Matthew Kavanagh, centre, receives his award from Kelvin Rayner, left, and Howard Taylor

Matt gets black belt

Karate

A WALSALL schoolboy has joined shotokan karate's elite by claiming his black belt.

Matthew Kavanagh, aged 11, began training under the advice of his uncle, Howard Taylor, after suffering problems with bullying.

He received his black belt certificate and official licence from Kelvin Rayner, chief instructor at the Tamashii club based at The Beacon School in Davis Road, New Invention.

Rayner said: "Matthew started training three-and-a-half years ago."

"He has joined the elite, who are registered in Japan and who can travel the karate

world with their grade being recognised." Kavanagh's success has led to increased confidence and self-esteem.

He attends Oakmeadow Primary School and is supported in achieving his goals by Rayner.

The Tamashii school has been established for more than 30 years and stages three training nights a week at The Beacon School.

To discover more about the club, call Rayner on 07950 111981 or visit www.tamashii-dojo.com

Ryan is ruled out of title chance

WALSALL boxer Joel Ryan has been forced out of his fight for the vacant Midlands welterweight title, **writes Craig Birch.**

He was due to take on Derby's Luke Gallear at Burton Town Hall tomorrow night, but a chest infection means Ryan's place will be taken by Stourbridge's Steven Pearce – already preparing for a scheduled bout eight days later at the 70th anniversary show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

"Fierce Pearce", aged 28, competed in the welterweight Prizefighter at the Civic last month and was lined up to challenge the winner of Ryan v Gallear.

Gallear has enjoyed a solid training camp ahead of his title shot, but Pearce took the fight at four days' notice.

Manager and promoter Errol Johnson said: "The chest infection has really knocked Joel off his feet. He had been training hard and was looking good."

"He did 10 rounds of sparring last Monday but started feeling ill the following morning. He went to the doctors and has been taking a course of antibiotics, but he's still bed-ridden and we just can't risk him."

"Steven was next in line for a shot at the Midlands title anyway, so it made sense to bring his opportunity forward. Gallear versus Pearce will be a war."

"Neither will take a backwards step, so the fans will be in for a real treat."

Tickets for Burton are £30 for unreserved seating and £50 ringside. They are available at the Town Hall Box Office on 0128 350 8547. Doors open at 7pm; boxing starts at 8pm.

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NOTHING TO FEAR SAYS WOOD BOSS

WALSALL WOOD boss Mark Swann says his players have "nothing to fear" ahead of their FA Vase quarter-final clash with Guernsey.

The Wood host the Channel Island outfit at Oak Park on Saturday as they bid to reach the last four of the competition – putting them in touching distance of a Wembley final.

Swann insisted his players will not be under any pressure and expects them to thrive on their tag as underdogs against the Combined Counties Football League Premier Division side.

"We have already beaten a number of teams from leagues above us on this cup run so I've told the players that we have nothing to fear at all," said Swann.

"I don't think we have anything to lose against Guernsey so there will be no pressure on the lads."

"There is a chance for us to make a bit of history and we are excited by it rather than daunted."

Excited

"Everyone is excited about the game and it is a big reward not just for the players and management, but for all the volunteers behind the scenes who work tirelessly for the good of the club."

Swann has compiled a dossier of sorts on Guernsey, who only joined the English pyramid in 2011 and have a side composed entirely of players from the island.

"I have spoken to a few people and picked up a bit of information on them and we know they are a team that like to get the ball down and play," said Swann.

"Everyone knows that Matthew Le Tissier is the club president, and his brother Mark is the club secretary, so they clearly have some people there with a

by Timothy Abraham

Quarter-final draw

Shildon v Ascot Utd
Spennymoor T v Gornal Ath
Turbridge W v Hadleigh Utd
Walsall Wood v Guernsey

good football pedigree. I am sure it will be a tough game but, as I said, we will approach it with positive mindset."

Swann also admitted the match will help swell the Midland Combination Premier Division club's coffers even without the £2,500 on offer to the winners of the tie.

"Hopefully the game will capture the imagination of a few people in the area and we get a bumper crowd through the gate at Oak Park," added Swann.

"Financially, it will give the club a bit of a leg up with the attendance and a few quid spent behind the bar."

"Obviously if we get the prize money as well, that would mean a huge amount to the club. But we want to get through for football reasons more than anything else."

■ Admission is £5 for adults and £3 concessions.

Information is on the club website: www.clubweb.co.uk/walsallwood

Double is done as new kit gets winning outing



Essington Ladies rugby team, complete with new kit, pose for the camera before their win away to Warley Ladies

Warley Ladies 15 Essington Ladies 31

NEWLY-FORMED Essington Ladies followed up their first match 44-20 win over Warley with victory in the return.

Warley drew first blood when they got the ball out wide and their dangerous winger crossed. But lively visiting scrum-half Mary Chandler forced both Warley half-backs into fumbles as the Essington pack began to dominate.

And they scored when skipper CJ Smith crossed from a quickly-taken close-range tap penalty.

Two more tries followed, but Warley's winger crossed in the second period to cut Essington's lead to 17-10 and a further score reduced the advantage to a slender two points.

With Warley on the front foot and Essington suffering a couple of injuries to key players, the home side sensed their chance had come.

But Essington dug in, lifted by centre Abbey Meadows' fierce tackling, and a converted try gave them some breathing space at 24-15.

With the game still in the balance, No.8 Isla Hodson settled affairs by exploding over the line for the final try. Smith converted with the last kick of the match.



Essington's Isla Hodson in full cry during the 31-15 win

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